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Paper 6th
M I N U T E S

OF THE
E V I D E N C E

TAKEN BEFORE A

Committee of the House of Commons,

B E I N G

A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE,

TO WHOM IT WAS REFERRED

To consider of so much of HIS MAJESTY'S Most
Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament,
on the 25th Day of *January*, 1785,

AS RELATES TO THE

ADJUSTMENT of the COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE
between *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

D U B L I N:

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M,DCC,LXXXV.

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F V I D E N C E

TAKEN AT THE

Committee of the House of Commons

IN THE

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To the Select Committee of the House of Commons

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MINUTES, &c.

Martis, 15^o die Martii 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That the Commissioners of the Customs; and also, that the Commissioners of the Excise attended, according to Order;

The Commissioners of the Customs were called in to the Bar—

And they were asked,

Whether they had seen and considered the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, of the 12th of February, 1785?

To which the said Commissioners answered,

That they had only seen them in the News-papers, or casually; but not considered them at all:—That they meant that they had not considered them officially, or deliberated upon them at all.

They were then asked,

Whether, in a general View, they considered the said Propositions as likely to affect the Mode of collecting the Revenue?

And then they were directed to withdraw.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Customs be again called in, and informed, that the Committee desire they will take
B into

into their Consideration, the following Question, and be ready to deliver their Answer thereto, and their Observations thereupon, as far as their Information will enable them to do so, when they shall be again ordered to attend this Committee.

The Question is this,

Whether they are of Opinion, that the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, of the 12th of February last, are likely, if carried into Execution, to affect the Execution of the Laws of Customs, for the Protection of Trade, or the Revenue under their Management, and the mode of collecting the same, and in what Manner; taking into their Consideration the Alteration which will or may be made by the said Resolutions in the Duties, Bounties, Drawbacks, and Prohibitions, which now affect the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom?

Then the Commissioners of the Customs were again called in, and acquainted with the said Resolution.

Whereupon they informed the Committee, That they would use their best Endeavours to obey the Commands of the Committee in the speediest and most effectual Manner; and for that Purpose they desired that the Resolution of the Committee might be sent to them, and that they might be allowed to return their Answer also in Writing;—that by these Means they would be less liable to Misconceptions and Mistakes, and would be enabled to deliberate upon these extensive and important Subjects at their own Office, where alone they had any Materials to direct and determine their Judgment;—that this Method was allowed and approved by the Committee appointed in the last Parliament to enquire into the illicit Practices used in defrauding the Revenue:—And they also desired to be furnished with an authentic Copy of the Irish Resolutions.

Whereupon the Chairman of the Committee informed them, that a Copy of the Resolution now read to them, and also a printed Copy of the Irish Resolutions, should be sent to them.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of Excise be called in, and informed, that the Committee desire that they will take into their Consideration the following Question, and be ready to deliver their Answer thereto, and their Observations thereupon, as far as their Information will enable them to do so, when they shall be again ordered to attend this Committee.

The

The Question is this,

Whether they are of Opinion, that the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, of the 12th of February last, are likely, if carried into Execution, to affect the Execution of the Laws of Excise, or the Revenue under their Management, and the Mode of collecting the same, and in what Manner; taking into their Consideration the Alteration which will or may be made by the said Resolutions in the Duties, Bounties, Drawbacks, and Prohibitions, which now affect the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom.

And the said Commissioners of Excise were called in, and acquainted therewith; and they were informed by the Chairman of the Committee, that a Copy of the said Resolution, and a printed Copy of the Irish Resolutions, should be also sent to them.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, and
ask Leave to sit again.

Mercurii, 16^o die Martii 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee was moved, That that Part of the Examination of Messieurs Walker and Richardson, which is in Page 39 * of the printed Report of the Lords of the Committee of Council, appointed for the Consideration of all Matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations, upon the Two Questions referred to them by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 14th of January, 1785, might be read;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follows:

“ Q. You have said, That if England and Ireland were put upon equal Terms with respect to Duties and Bounties upon their Cotton Manufactures, they will naturally supply themselves with Cotton Goods for their internal Consumption;—do you mean that the Irish Manufacturer will supply the Irish Market, and the English Manufacturer the English Market?

“ A. We apprehend the Irish Manufacturer will have the Advantage, and may in Time even supply the English Market.

“ Q. If the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland are made subject to a Duty of Ten and a Half per Cent. on Importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irish Manufacturer will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country?

“ A. If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of Ten and a Half per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption.”

And the Committee being informed, That Counsel attended on the Part of the Petition of the Callicoe Manufactures and

* The Page, in this Instance, and in others where this Report is mentioned, throughout these MINUTES, refers to the Report as printed by Order of the House of Commons.

Printers, of the County Palatine of Lancaster, and Counties adjacent.

The Counsel (Mr. Garrow) was called in ;

And the said Petition was read ; setting forth, That the Petitioners are exceedingly alarmed at the Resolutions brought before the House relating to the Commercial Regulations betwixt Great-Britain and Ireland, which, if carried into Effect, they have no Doubt will, in their Consequences, be greatly injurious to the Commerce and Manufactures of this Country ; and that the principal Part of the Expence in the various Articles of the Cotton and Callicoe Manufacture, together with the Printing, consists in the Price of Labour, which is greatly enhanced by the many heavy Taxes with which this Country is burthened ; and the People of Ireland being, in a great Measure, free from Taxes, the Price of Labour is consequently very low ; and that, to carry on the same Extent of Business in this Country as in Ireland, a much greater Capital will be required, on account of the Difference in the Price of Labour, and the very heavy Duties on the Bleaching and Printing Cotton Goods : From these Considerations the Petitioners have sufficient Reason to fear that this valuable Branch of Manufacture, which at present is computed to employ upwards of five hundred thousand People, will be immediately very much injured, and the Consumption of this Country will in Time be wholly supplied by the Manufacturers of Ireland ; and that the Petitioners are apprehensive that no Duties laid on the Importation of Irish Manufactures will be a sufficient Security to the British Manufacturer, as it is well known that high Duties continually operate as an Inducement to smuggle : And therefore praying, That the House will take the same into Consideration, and prevent those Resolutions from passing into a Law ; and that they may be heard, by themselves or Counsel, in Support of the Allegations contained in this Petition.

Then the said Counsel informed the Committee, That being called upon on a sudden to attend this Committee upon the present Occasion, and not being therefore fully instructed, he desired to be allowed to call his Witnesses first, and make his Observations on the Evidence after it was given ;—which being permitted to be done, he called

Mr.

Mr. ROBERT PEELE.

Of what Business are you?

A Callicoe Manufacturer and Printer.

What Number of Persons do you employ, distinguishing those employed in the Manufacture from those employed in the Printing?

In the Manufacture I employ Six thousand—in the Printing Eight hundred.

What is the Amount of Excise Duty paid by your House alone upon the Manufacture?

I pay £. 20,000 per Annum.

Whether there are any Duties paid on the Manufacture of Cotton Goods in Ireland?

There are none.

What is the Proportion of the Price of Labour to the Price of the Raw Material used in the Manufacture carried on by you?

In the common Articles of our Manufacture, of which there is the greatest Consumption, a little more than Half the Cost consists in Labour: In high priced Goods 7-8ths of the Cost consists in Labour.

What is the common Price of Labour paid to the Persons employed in your Manufactory?

8s. per Week per Man.

Do you know what is the common Price of Labour paid to the Working People employed in the Linen Manufacture in Ireland?

From the best Information I have been able to get, the Price is from 4s. to 5s. per Week.

As you have stated, that you pay to the Excise Duty to the Amount of £. 20,000 per Annum, is not a considerable Part of your Capital employed in the Advance of those Duties?

About £. 15 per Cent. of the Capital is employed for the Duties.

What is the Increase of Capital required by the English Manufacturer on account of Advance of Duties, and the Difference of Price of Labour in this Country and Ireland?

£. 20 per Cent. on the Goods manufactured.

Whether

Whether a Person who has been employed as a Weaver in the Cotton Manufactory can weave Linen with equal Facility?
Equally as well.

Can the Linen Weaver with equal Facility weave Cotton?
Yes, he can.

You have stated, that Labour in Ireland is considerably lower than in England, in what Proportion would that Difference affect the Goods when manufactured?

In common Articles the Difference would be £.20 per Cent; in fine Goods the Difference would be still greater.

If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. imposed on the importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland to this Country, do you apprehend that the Irish Manufacturer will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country?

I certainly think that the Irish Manufacturer would be able to send his Goods into England £.12 or £.13 per Cent. (after paying the £.10½ per Cent.) cheaper than the English Manufacturer, because of the increased Capital required by the English Manufacturer, as well as the advanced price of Labour.

If the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament should be adopted by the Legislature of this Country, do you suppose that the Price of Labour in Ireland will increase, so as to remove the Inequality which you have stated to this Committee?

I cannot conceive that the Price of Labour in Ireland can be much increased, whilst the Taxes in that Country are so inconsiderable, unless the Trade to this Country should be so considerable as very much to injure the Manufactures of Great Britain.

If Ireland has hitherto possessed the Advantages you have stated, how has it happened that you have exported considerable Quantities of Printed Goods to that Kingdom?

We are superior to the Irish in Printing; and as they have not had an Opportunity of sending Cotton Goods into this Country, we printed our own Manufactures for that Trade;—but if the Printing should continue in this Country, we shall undoubtedly lose the manufacturing those Goods not only for the Consumption of that Country, but of Great Britain, and the Manufacture employs Nineteen Persons for One to the Printing.

If

If Irish Printed Goods should be permitted to be imported into this Country, subject to Duties, do you apprehend that the Payment of those Duties will be evaded, and the Goods imported clandestinely?

The heavy Duties paid upon our Manufactures, with the Addition of $\text{£.10} \frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. on the Importation, would offer such an Advantage to the Smuggler, that it is to be feared very great Quantities would come into this Country, without paying any Duty, as it would be very difficult to tell whether a Piece of Irish Manufacture had paid the Duty or not, if the Trade was open.

Can you state to the Committee any other Objection drawn from the Detriment which in your Judgment would follow to the Manufactures of this Country, as Reasons against the adopting the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament?

If the Irish are allowed to send their Goods to the English Market, they will not only injure us in our Home Trade, but we have great Reason to fear that they will draw so much Ready Money from this Country, as to enable them to give Credit to foreign Countries, and very materially injure that Trade.

Whether the Persons employed in your Manufacture, to the Amount of Six Thousand Eight hundred, contribute largely to the Revenue of this Country by the Consumption of Articles charged with Excise Duty?

I should think they must be very serviceable to the Revenue in consuming those Articles which are charged with Excise Duties.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

You will inform the Committee whether 8s. is the Price paid to the principal Persons concerned in the Manufactory; and whether there are not others who receive much lower Wages?

I reckon 8s. to be the Average Price of Labour that we pay to Men in our Manufacture.

What is the Price paid to Women employed in the Manufacture?

About 5s. per Week.

What is the Average Price paid to Children employed in the Manufacture?

From 1s. 6d. to 4s. per Week.

In

In carrying on the Manufacture, on an Average, what is the Number of Women and Children employed, compared with the Number of Men, on an Average?

I never made such an estimate—it is impossible to tell with any Kind of Accuracy.

Is it one Half, or two Thirds; can you say in general, though not accurately?

I should suppose the Number of Men not to be One Third.

Can you say in general what is the Number of Children, compared with the Women, employed in the Manufacture.

It is impossible to form any Kind of Judgment, in my Opinion.

Whether you do not pay the Manufacturers every Week; and whether from thence you cannot say what that Proportion is?

We are paying People every Day, when they bring in their Work.

Whether a considerable Part of the Work in this Manufacture, particularly in the First Stage of it, is not performed by Machines?

With the Assistance of Hand Labour.

You have given an Account of the Price of Labour in Ireland—do you mean *that* for the Price paid to Men only, or, on the Average, to Men, Women, and Children?

To Men only.

Whether, in the Linen Manufacture, the same Mills are made use of as in the Cotton Manufacture, in the First Stages of the Manufacture?

The same Machines are not made use of in the Linen Manufacture in the early Stages of it.

Are any other Machines of the same Sort made use of?

Not of the same Sort—there are Machines used in the Linen Manufacture.

Is the Labour in the Linen Manufacture abridged by the Machine, as it is in the Cotton Manufacture, in any, and what Proportion?

I believe it is not abridged in the same Manner.

Have not the Irish Manufacturers in Linen a great Advantage, by having the Linen Yarn cheaper than in Great Britain?

I should think they certainly had an Advantage.

C

Whether,

Whether, notwithstanding the Cheapness of Labour in Ireland, the Cheapness of the Raw Material, there not being the same Use of Machines, and that the Irish Linen is imported Duty-free, there does not exist a very great Linen Manufacture in this Country?

I do not believe there does exist a very great Linen Manufacture in England.

Whether the same Circumstances do not exist with respect to the Manufacture of Scotland; and whether there does not exist a very great Linen Manufacture in Scotland?

I believe there does exist a Manufacture of Linen in Scotland, but I cannot tell to what Extent.

Whether you do not know that the Linen Manufactures of Great Britain have, for many Years last past, been greatly increasing gradually?

I am not able to speak to that point.

Do you know what is the Price of Labour in Scotland?

I have heard that the Price of Labour in Scotland is lower than in England, but I do not know in what Proportion.

Can you say what is the Difference of the Price of Labour between Ireland and Scotland?

I cannot say precisely—I believe it is lower in Ireland than in Scotland.

What is the Value per Cent. of Freight of Cotton Goods from Ireland to Great Britain, including Port Charges?

About £. 2 per Cent. I believe, on our Goods.

What do you rate per Cent. the Amount of the Duty laid last Year on Cotton Goods in England?

£.15 per Cent.

State to the Committee on what Estimate you form that Calculation?

The old Duty on Printing is 3*d.* per Yard, the new Duty on Bleaching 1*d.* per Yard—the Average Price of the Goods when finished is about 2*s.* 3*d.* per Yard.

Whether the Duty of last Year is not drawn back on Exportation?

All Duties on our Goods are drawn back on Exportation.

If a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. ad Valorem, is added to the Inland or Excise Duty now paid on our Cotton Goods, on the Import-

Importation of the like Goods into Great Britain from Ireland, together with the Price of Freight, do you think you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition between the Manufactures in our Market?

There still will remain an Advantage of £.12 or £.13 per Cent. in Favour of the Irish Manufacture.

State in what Manner.

By an Advantage of £.20 per Cent. which he derives from the low Price of Labour on the common Articles, and an Advantage of £.30 per Cent. on the fine Articles, which, added to the Advantage he derives by not employing more than Two Thirds of the Capital required by the English Manufacturer to the same Quantity of Business, I reckon it to be at least from £.12 to £.13 per Cent.

Will not this Burthen upon the Capital affect in like Manner the Irish Manufacture, from the Time that the Duty is paid on Importation to the Time of Sale?

So far Different, that the English Manufacturer is in Advance for Part of the Duties Nine Months before the Goods are ready for the Market, and the other Part of the Duties at least Six Months, and the Irish Manufacture is ready for the Market when imported into this Country.

Whether the Cotton Goods of this Country have not always been subject to a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. on the Importation into Ireland?

Ever since I can remember.

Has there not, during that Time, been a great Importation of our Cotton Goods into Ireland?

Of Printed Cotton Goods.

Whether not of Fustians?

I am not in that Manufacture, and therefore can't speak to it.

Have not the Irish, during that Time, had full Liberty of manufacturing Cotton Goods for their own Consumption, or for Foreign Markets, if they chose it?

I believe they had for their own Consumption, but it is only of late Date that they have had an Opportunity of supplying Foreign Markets with them.

How has it happened, that if the Irish can manufacture so much cheaper than we can here, they have for so long a Period, at so great a Disadvantage of Duties and Freight, taken the Cotton

Goods of this Country, and have not manufactured them for themselves?

They have only taken our Printed Cottons for a Reason I have already assigned, that Printing is done better in this Country than in Ireland.

Will not the same Skill, if it exists, operate equally in Favour of the other Parts of the Manufacture?

I think not, because the Success in Printing depends in a great Measure on Taste and Ingenuity; but in the Manufacture of Cottons nothing is required but common Manual Labour.

Have we not a Superiority in our Cotton Manufactures over all foreign Countries?

The Superiority, if we have it, is of that Nature that it can be easily removed into a neighbouring Kingdom; and so much am I satisfied of it, that since the Irish Resolutions came before this House, I have wrote to a principal House in Ireland to have a Connection with it, for the Purpose of supplying the Consumption of this Country.

Do not you know that the French have tried to establish the Cotton Manufacture in France?

I have been informed that they not only have tried, but are increasing that Manufacture very fast.

Do not you know that the only Manufacture they have is supported by the King of France?

I am not acquainted with that Circumstance.

Is there not a very great Exportation of Cotton Goods from Great Britain to most Foreign Countries?

There is a considerable Export of Cotton Goods abroad.

Have you Reason to believe that the French Manufacturers in Cotton have ever rivalled us in Foreign Markets?

I believe they have not been carried on yet to that Extent to rival us abroad.

How long have they been established?—Do not you know an Englishman that went to establish them?

I do not know how long, nor the Englishman that went.

Can you inform the Committee with respect to the actual State of the Cotton Manufacture in Ireland?

With respect to that Part of the Cotton Manufacture in which I am concerned, I believe there is a considerable Quantity made, and

and from Persons conversant with it I am informed, the Price of the Goods is much lower in that Country than the same Kind of Goods sell for in England.

Do you know the Prices paid to the Labourers either at Prosperous or Balbriggan?

I do not know the Price paid at either Place.

Have you not been informed there are Men Spinners there, who are paid from 6s. to 12s. per Week?

I never heard that Circumstance mentioned.

Have you ever heard that there are Printers paid such high Wages as a Guinea per Week?

Yes; I believe they have paid that Price for Printers.

Do not you know that the Manufactures have been upheld by liberal Grants from the Irish Parliament?

I have repeatedly heard that they have been established by Bounties, and that the Bounties still continue on many Branches of the Manufacture.

Do not you know that these Manufactures would have fallen to the Ground, but for those Bounties, from the great Length of Credit which the English Merchants are able to give?

I am totally unacquainted with that Matter; but from the low Price of Labour in that Country I should suppose they did not stand in Need of many such Aids.

Do you personally, from your own Knowledge, know what the Price of Labour is in that Country?

I have long had Connections with the principal House in Ireland, and my Information I have gathered from them.

Is not the English Manufacturer of Cottons more skilful than the Irish?

I do not believe it depends much upon the Skill of the Weaver, but upon his Industry

In Point of Fact, is not more Work done by an English than by an Irish Manufacturer in Cotton in a Day?

I cannot speak to that.

May not the Difference of Skill in a Manufacturer fully make up the Difference in Point of Wages?

I think not.—I observed before that there was very little of Skill in the Manufacture; and I am so convinced that the Manufacture may be as well done in Ireland, that I could get the same
Quantity

Quantity of Pieces made in that Country which I now get made in England, in the Course of Three Months, on the Terms I have before stated.

Do you believe that the Exportation of Cotton Goods to Ireland is diminished, since the Power given to the Irish of exporting their own Cotton Goods?

The Exportation of Printed Cotton Goods to Ireland has very much decreased of late, owing, I suppose, to the Non-importation Agreement.

Has it decreased since 1780, upon an Average of those Years? I believe it has increased from 1780 to 1782.

Is the Committee to understand then, that you are of Opinion that the Cotton Manufactures of Manchester have not suffered by the Liberty of Exportation granted to the Irish Trade?

I believe they have already suffered, but not in any great Degree.

Is not the Irish Capital employed in the Cotton Manufacture comparatively very small, compared with the English?

I believe there are but few People of Property contribute to carry on the Manufacture in Ireland, owing to an Aversion their People of Property have in general to being employed in Business.

Can England therefore lose her Cotton Manufactory but by the Loss of her Industry, or by the Imposition of injudicious Taxes?

I think she may lose her Manufactory by the English Manufacturer of Property employing his Capital in Ireland, as well as by injudicious Taxes.

Can you inform the Committee, whether Mr. Arkwright's Machines are used in the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland?

I believe at present they are used, but they are going to be used in a much greater Degree, as Mr. Arkwright has the exclusive Right to those Machines in England, which does not extend to Ireland.

What does Mr. Arkwright expect from the Manufacturer for the Liberty of using his Machine?

It depends on the Number of Spindles that he sells, and the Time that he has in his Patent.

How many Years longer has Mr. Arkwright's Patent to run? Five or Six Years.

What,

What, on an Average, is a Manufacturer obliged to pay Mr. Arkwright for a Machine with Thirty Spindles?
About £.60.

When you stated that the Manufacturer in Ireland would trade with an Advantage of £. 13 or £. 14 per Cent. did you include the Money that he was to pay Mr. Arkwright?
Yes, that was included.

Should the Irish Resolutions be adopted by the Parliament here, would you carry on the Business to the same Extent you now do?
I certainly should, but not in England.

Where then?
In Ireland.

Do you apprehend that any other Persons concerned in the Cotton Trade would also remove to Ireland?
Upon the Advantages held out I should suppose a great Number would carry the Business to Ireland.

Would not that, in your Opinion, cause a great Diminution of the Revenue, by there being a less Consumption of Exciseable Commodities in Lancashire?
I should think in more Parts than Lancashire, owing to a decreased Population, and the Inability of poor People to consume Exciseable Commodities.

Do you mean that the Average Price of Labour you spoke of is taken from the Piece Work as well as the Day Work?
Yes—I meant that it is taken as well from the Piece Work as the Day Work.

Do you mean the same, from the Information you have received of the Price of Labour in Ireland?
Yes.

Do you then mean to say, that from the best Information you can get from Ireland, you can there have the same Quantity of Labour performed for 5s. as you now pay 8s. for in Lancashire?
Yes.

And in the same Proportion, by Women and Children?
Yes.

Can

Can you tell what Proportion of the Duties you pay to Government as a Printer, and what Proportion as a Manufacturer?

The last Year I paid as a Printer £.19,000, and as a Manufacturer £.1,000; but this Year, if I was to carry on Business to the same Extent, which is not likely, I should pay £.19,000 on the Printing, and £.6,000 on the Manufacture.

Whether the Skill of making Mr. Arkwright's Machine is now fully possessed by other People, as well as Mr. Arkwright?

By every Joiner in the Country.

Do you know enough of Ireland to form any Opinion, whether the Introduction of those Machines there is likely to meet with Opposition from the Manufacturers or labouring People?

I should think the Manufacturers or labouring People, from what I know of Ireland, would have no Objection to the Machine working in that Country.

Do you know whether any of these Machines have been sent to France?

I have heard so, but I am not satisfied about it.

What are the different Stages in the Process of the Manufacture, from its Commencement to its Completion?

Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, and Printing.

What is the Proportion of Expence of each of those?

That would require some Time to answer.

Answer it generally, as near as you can.

Weaving would be nearly the same as the Spinning, exclusive of the Warp, which is made by Arkwright's Machine—the Expence of Bleaching is inconsiderable, and Printing entirely depends on the Nature of the Pattern.

In how many, and in which of those different Parts of the Manufacture, is Machinery employed?

In the Process of Spinning.

When you said that in the fine Goods 7-8ths of the Value arose from the Expence of Labour, whether those 7-8ths include the Annual Interest of Money expended in Machines, and the Annual Expence of keeping those Machines in Repair?

It includes the Annual Expence of keeping the Machines in Repair, but not the Interest of the Money employed.

What

What Proportion do you suppose the Sums expended in the Annual Repairs of the Machines bears to the Sums expended in Labour?

The Sums expended in Machines bear no Proportion at all, or a very small One, to the Sums expended in Labour.

What do you apprehend to have been the Expence of Labour, compared with the Total Value of the complete Articles before the Invention of those Machines, that have been invented within these last Twenty Years?

I believe there was no such Goods invented before the last Twenty Years.

Do you then mean to say, that the Cotton Manufactory did not exist in this Country till within the last Twenty Years?

We distinguish the Cotton Manufactory from the Muslin Manufactory.—What I said about the high-priced Goods are Muslins, which I believe were not made in this Country Twenty Years ago.

Is the Idea of going to establish the Business in Ireland, with a View to supply the English Market, or the Foreign Market, or both?

Both.

Do you know of any other Manufacturers that have it in Contemplation to carry the Business into Ireland, from an Idea of the present proposed Arrangements taking place?

I have heard many Persons in the Manufacture declare an Intention of carrying the Manufacture into that Country, provided these Resolutions are formed into a Law.

Do you conceive, that if these proposed Resolutions were carried into Effect, and the Duty proposed on the Import from Ireland stand a Part of it, will it not be a strong Encouragement to introduce the Irish Manufacture by Smuggling?

It will—I have declared that before.

Is Soap a considerable Article in this Manufacture?

I do not use much Soap in this Manufacture.

Do you clearly understand the Nature and Tendency of the Irish Resolutions, and the Commercial Regulations necessary to the carrying them into Execution in both Kingdoms?

They are far above my Comprehension to understand them—but in the Manner they have been explained to me, I believe they will be very prejudicial to the Cotton Manufactures of this Country.

D

Whether

Whether it is not a general Opinion, amongst the Manufacturers of this Country, that the Art and Industry of the English Manufacturer is more than a Counterbalance for the lower Price of Labour in Ireland ?

I believe it is far from being a received Opinion of the Manufacturers of this Country, that the Art and Ingenuity of the Manufacturer in England would counterbalance the Advantages of the Irish Manufacturer ; because many of the Manufactures that will be injured by these Resolutions neither depend on Art or Ingenuity, but Industry.

Question repeated, as to Industry—not Ingenuity ?

I think the English Manufacturer cannot reckon any Thing on the Industry of his Work People, if I may be allowed to judge from the Produce of Labour in the Irish Linen Manufacture.

In what Manner have the Irish Resolutions been explained to you ?

That they are to be allowed to come into this Country free of all Duties, except such as are paid on the Exportation of the same English Manufacture to Ireland, and the internal Duties in Great Britain.

Was there no Provision mentioned of a certain Compensation for such Allowances ?

None to depend upon.

Whether, at the present Rate of Labour, and with a brisk Trade, you have found that the Manufacturers employed by you have in general worked Six Days in a Week ?

Those that have large Families work Six Days in a Week.

To what Places do the Manufactures go ?

Great Part are consumed in Great Britain :—We send considerable Quantities to America and the West Indies.

Who pays you for the Articles you send to America and the West Indies ?

The English Merchant, when they are for Exportation ; unless, which is sometimes the Case, we execute an Order from those Countries.

Do you know how the Merchant is paid in Return for those Goods ?

I believe in general by the Produce of the Countries to which the Goods are sold.

Is that Produce to supply the Consumption of this Country?

Part of that Produce is to supply the Consumption of this Country, and another Part is to supply the Manufactures.

If the Merchant of Ireland is to supply this Country with the Produce of the Colonies, whether you will not send the Manufactures of Ireland, and not the Manufactures of this Country, to purchase that Produce?

I believe not only the Irish Merchant, but the English Merchant, would be glad to take the Manufactures of that Country, as they may have them on much lower Terms.

Are you not aware that the Merchants of this Country may now send the Manufactures of Ireland to the Colonies, in order to purchase the Produce of those Countries, and bring that Produce either to Ireland or this Country?

I am so little acquainted with the Business of a Merchant, that I am not able to speak to that Question.

You have stated that the Price of Labour of a Man at Manchester is 8s. per Week, how long has he earned at that Rate?

Ever since I have been in Business.

Did he earn it Seven Years ago?

That was reckoned a very moderate Price Seven Years ago; and I believe he earned it.

Whether the Cotton Manufacturers of Ireland have hitherto been in so flourishing a Condition as to induce the Merchants of Great Britain to take Part of the Irish Manufactures in his Cargo to America?

I do not think that the Cotton Manufacture of Ireland has been so long established as to supply Foreign Countries.

Whether the Want of Capital has not been a greater Impediment to the Prosperity of the Cotton Manufacture in Ireland, than the Want of Industry or Skill in the People of Ireland, or any other Cause that has hitherto been assigned?

I always understood that it was rather owing to People quitting Trade in that Country, when they became possessed of a small Property.

Whether the Permission proposed to be given by the Resolutions now under Consideration, of importing Irish Manufactures into Great Britain, will not induce People of great Capital in Great Britain either to settle in Ireland, or form Connections,

which may give the Advantages arising from cheapness of Labour and Habits of Industry, their full Effects?

I have not a Doubt but that will be the Case.—With respect to myself, I mean to employ a very considerable Capital in that Country; and others will undoubtedly do the same.

Whether the Employment of English Capitals in the Manufactures of Ireland will not tend so much to their Prosperity, as to enable them to supply the British Merchant with a considerable Part of the Cargo he may make up for America, and the West Indies, and Foreign States?

It certainly will.

Whether, under the Advantages you have already stated, the English Merchant will not prefer the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland to those of Great Britain?

It will certainly be his Interest to take the Irish Manufactures of Cotton.

In forming the Calculation of the Advantages attending the Irish Manufacture, and the Disadvantage attending similar Ones in Great Britain, did you take into your Consideration the Bounties granted from Time to Time by the Irish Parliament on their Manufactures?

I did not make any Allowance for Bounties granted on the Irish Manufacture.

Did you not consider the Bounties granted on the Irish Manufacture imported into Great Britain disadvantageous to the British Manufacture?

Undoubtedly any Bounties granted on the Manufactures of that Country will give a still greater Advantage to the Irish Manufacture than what I have before stated.

Do you consider Sums of Money granted to Manufacturers in Consequence of erecting Mills, or incurring other Expences, as operating in the Nature of Bounties?

I certainly consider that they will have that Effect.

Do you know that Bounties have been granted by the Irish Parliament on the Sale of the Manufactures in Ireland?

I have heard of it, but am not sufficiently acquainted to speak to it.

Do you consider, that if a Bounty of £.5 per Cent. on the Sale of a Manufacture is granted in Ireland, and that a Duty of £.5 per Cent. is charged on the Importation of the same Manufacture into

into Great Britain, that such Import Duty completely balances the Bounty given on the Sale ?

I do not see that any great Advantage would from thence arise to the Manufacture of Ireland.

Whether such Bounties on Sale, not drawn back, will not operate against the British Manufacturer in Foreign Markets ?

They certainly will, unless England allows a similar Bounty on the same Manufactures.

Since the Difference of the Price of Labour is so great an Inducement as to engage you to remove to Ireland, why have you not formed Connections, and removed your Capital to Scotland, where Labour is cheaper than in England ?

Because I understand, that though Labour is cheap in Scotland, yet it is a great deal more cheap in Ireland ; besides, there are very heavy Duties on the Cotton Manufacture in Scotland, which would require an increased Capital, that the Irish Manufacture is not burthened with.

Whether you believe that the intended Regulations will enable the Cotton Manufacturer of Ireland to export his Goods to Foreign Countries, and to receive any different Returns from thence than what he can now do ?

I do not know, with respect to the Foreign Trade, that the Irish Manufacturer will derive any additional Advantages from those Resolutions.

What Computations have you made of the Charges and Commission attending the Delivery of these Goods in England, on which you have stated so large a Profit to the Irish Manufacturer ?

I computed that the Charges of Sale and Delivery of those Goods from Ireland, and sold in the London Market, would be very little more than the Sale and Delivery of the Lancashire Goods sold in the same Market.

Do you not apprehend that the Freight and Insurance, and longer Disburse of Money, must considerably increase that Charge ?

I do not consider that the Irish Manufacturer does pay much more for his Carriage from Dublin to London, than the Country Manufacturer pays for Land Carriage to London ; and that the Irish Manufacturer can get a Return in Money as soon as the Lancashire Manufacturer.

Whether

Whether the Act of 1780, for opening the Irish Trade, has had any Effect in any Manner detrimental to the English Cotton Manufacturer ?

The Time is so short that the bad Effects of it are not yet so sensibly felt ; but I can speak so far, with respect to my own Business, that I sold many Irish Linens printed for Exportation before the passing that Act, and I have now totally lost that Trade.

Was you, or the Cotton Manufacturers in general, apprised of the passing that Act in its Progress through this House ?

I believe the whole Country were apprised of it.

Did they oppose it, by Petition or otherwise ?

The Manufacturers of Cotton did not oppose it to my Knowledge.

Has the Cotton Trade upon the Whole increased or diminished since that Time, to your Knowledge ?

I cannot speak to that.

Do you believe that the passing these Resolutions would be more detrimental to the Cotton Trade than the passing that Act ?

Ten Times more detrimental, in my Opinion.

Do you believe that it would be for the Interest of the Irish Manufacturer of Cotton, in case these Resolutions were to pass, to send his Cottons to the English Market, under a considerable Duty, before he had beat the English Cottons out of every other Market in the World, where they might meet upon equal Terms ?

I believe it would not only be his Interest, but the Irish Manufacturer will certainly send his Goods to the English Market, and raise a Capital upon those Goods, to enable him to beat the English Manufacturer at Foreign Markets.

Whether you believe that it is more for the Advantage of any Merchant, of any Country, to send his Goods to Market where there will be a heavy Duty on them, than to send them to an equally good Market, where there is a much less Duty, or none at all, charged on the said Goods ?

With respect to the Duties charged on the Irish Manufactures imported into Great Britain, I apprehend the Englishman will have to pay for it ; and it will be natural for them to send their Goods to a Market where they can draw for a great Part of the Amount immediately, rather than give a long Credit at a distant Market.

Are

Are you sure that the Resolutions have been properly explained to you ?

I cannot answer for that—Mr. Pitt explained them to me.

Whether, in your Comparative View of the Advantages and Disadvantages to arise to the Two Kingdoms, on which you have grounded your Reason to remove your Capital from hence to Ireland, you have taken into your Calculation the Disuse and Aversion to Labour in the Irish common People, compared with the steady and habitual Industry of the English Manufacturer ?

I never considered, and I do not recollect that I stated to the Committee, that the common People of Ireland are averse to Labour—I stated that the Manufacturer retires from Business with a small Fortune ; and I attributed to that, that but few People of large Property carried on the Cotton Business in that Country.

Have you turned your Enquiry to that Object, whether the common People in Ireland are or are not averse to Labour ?

The only Judgment I have formed on that Subject has arisen from the Produce of Labour in the Irish Linen Trade ; and as I have found that they are manufactured much lower than we can manufacture them in England, I have been led to believe that the poor working People in the North of Ireland are as industrious as the poor working People in Lancashire.

Have you never heard that, excepting the Linen Manufacture, almost every other Irish Manufactory is chiefly carried on either by Englishmen or Scotchmen ?

This is the First Time I ever heard any Thing of the Kind.

Have you ever been in Ireland ?

I never was.

Have you, by Agents in Ireland, or other People, made any Enquiries there ?

I answered before, that the Information I got was from principal Tradesmen in Ireland, but I was never there.

Whether, if the Irish were to export the same Quantity of Manufactures to Foreign Countries, it would not have the same Tendency to increase the Price of Labour in Ireland as if that Quantity was exported to this Country ?

With respect to the Increase of the Price of Labour, I always considered it to arise from the Increase of the Prices of the Necessaries of Life more than from any other Circumstance:—
When the People of that Country are so little burthened with
Taxes

Taxes on the Necessaries of life, I cannot suppose that an Increase of Trade would bring Labour to the same Price that is paid in this Country.

Question repeated.

I do not deny but that it might have the same Effect on the Price of Labour; but I can never suppose that it can occasion Labour to be as high in that Country as in this, unless the Labour of this Country should be very much reduced indeed, owing to the Loss of her Trade to Ireland.

Whether a Capital will not be increased fastest by selling in that Market where there will be the greatest Profit?

No;—I think a Capital will be soonest acquired where the Manufacturer gets a speedy Return for his Manufacture, and not to employ his Capital in a Foreign Trade, with which he must give a very long Credit.

Do you not imagine, that a Difference of £.10 per Cent. in Profit, may more than compensate for some Delay in the Return?

I think a Difference of £.10 per Cent will not be an Object sufficient to make the Manufacturer sell his Goods to a distant Market, with which he will be obliged to give a Credit of at least Eighteen Months, though the Profit should be £.30 per Cent.—if he can send his Goods to the English Market, and draw for the Money immediately, though the Profit should not be more than £.7 or £.8 per Cent.

Whether, in this Country, all the Cotton Manufactures are paid for in Ready Money?

I am not paid for my Manufactures in Ready Money; but if I may judge from the Transactions I have had with Ireland, they will draw for their Goods before they arrive in the English Market.

Whether you imagine it will be a Temptation to Persons in this Country to take Goods from Ireland, instead of from the Home Manufacture, when he must pay for them in Ready Money in the one Case, as soon as the Goods arrive, or before, and when he may have a Credit in the other?

The Irish Manufacturer having an Advantage over the English Manufacturer of £.12 or £.13 per Cent. as I have before stated, he will be enabled to offer his Goods on such Terms to the English Dealer, for Money, as will induce him to take them, in Preference to Goods charged by the English Manufacturer at a Credit Price, with a Consideration upon those Goods for that Credit.

Whether

Whether you are not of Opinion, that in many Cases an advantageous Trade may be carried on, where the Return is made not in Money or by Bills, but in Commodities from the Country to which the Exportation has been made?

I believe there may.

In Printed Goods what is the Proportion of the Expence of Printing to the Expence of Manufacturing?

If it is meant to know what is the Proportion of the Labour in the Printing to the Labour in the Manufacture, it may be only about One Tenth Part of the Expence, because that Trade requiring Ingenuity and Taste, the People are generally paid higher Wages.

What is the Proportion of the Expence of the Materials employed in Printing, to the Expence of Labour in Printing?

I never calculated the Difference of Expence, because the Expence of Printing depends so much on the Kind of Pattern that is put upon it, that it is impossible to form any Estimate.

Can you tell nearly what Proportion the whole Expence of Printing, on an Average, bears to the whole Expence of Manufacturing?

I cannot possibly tell; the Reason is, that in my Business I may pay Three Times as much as my Neighbour:—If I confine my Business to a higher priced Work, the Materials are of a superior Quality, and the Expence of Labour more considerable.

What is the Proportion in the higher Branches, and the lower Branches of your Business, or of any Business with which you are acquainted?

Some of the higher Courses of Work exceed in Value the Price of the plain Manufacture: Some of the lower Courses of Work are not equal to the Price of the other Manufacture.

Whether you know, or have calculated, what probable Difference there would be in the Expence of Printing in Ireland, and the Expence of Printing in England?

I believe the Expence of Printing in Ireland approaches nearer to the Expence of Printing in England, than the Expence of the Irish Manufacture does to that of the English Manufacture.

Do you mean, that upon the Whole the Expence of Printing in Ireland, as far as you know, is lower than the Price of Printing in England?

I believe the Expence of Printing in Ireland is rather lower
E than

than the Expence of Printing in England, on Account of the superior Taste and Execution in England :—The Work done is preferable in this Country.

Whether you think our Manufacturers could carry on any Competition with the Irish, in their own Market, under a Disadvantage of near £.40 per Cent ?

If you will take into Consideration the Quality of the Article sent into that Country, and if it is not superior in any Respect to their own Manufacture, I should think such a Trade could not exist.

Whether, if your Calculation be just, that the Irish would have an Advantage of £.13 per Cent. on similar Articles in this Country, after paying £.10½ per Cent. Duty, and £.2 per Cent. which you calculate as the Charge of Freight from Ireland, it does not follow, that the Goods which we send to the Irish Market, and which paid a Duty on Importation there of £.10½ per Cent. and £.2 per Cent. in like Manner for Freight, must have sold in the Irish Market under a Disadvantage of £.38 per Cent.

When I stated the Expence of bringing Goods over here at £.2 per Cent. I did not mean to say that there was an Advantage, besides that, of £.13 per Cent. ; but I stated, that the Expence of bringing the Goods from the Country to London was equal to the Expence of bringing Goods from Ireland to England.—It is impossible for a plain Manufacture, which has neither Taste nor Ingenuity to recommend it, under such unfavourable Circumstances, to exist. But with respect to the Printing Business, the Value consists in the Taste of the Pattern, and Execution of the Work ; and with that Advantage upon them, the higher Classes of Women in Ireland would wear English Goods, though at an Advance of £.38 per Cent. above their own Manufacture of Prints.

Whether, considering, as you have stated, that the Price of Printing in Ireland is also upon the Whole somewhat cheaper than the Price of Printing in England, you do not imagine that that Circumstance, together with an Advantage of £.38 or £.34 per Cent. would have been a sufficient Encouragement to Ingenuity and Taste in the Printing Business in Ireland ?

I think the Printing Business, being a Fancy Trade, has an ideal Value put upon it, and that the Wearer estimates it more for the Place it comes from, added to the Taste of the Pattern, than from any other Consideration. My Reason for saying so is, that

that there are a great many Goods smuggled into this Country from Flanders and other Parts of Europe, that have not apparently more Merit than our own Manufactures, and yet they are sold £. 100 per Cent. higher than English Prints.

Whether you really entertain such serious Apprehensions of the passing these Resolutions, as to be determined to remove those Manufactures, or the Capital with which you carry them on, immediately to Ireland, on that Event, without waiting at all to experience the Effect of them ?

I mean to remove Part of my Manufacture, and employ Part of my Capital immediately, and afterwards I mean to remove a greater Proportion, if it proves, as I have good Assurance that it will, an advantageous Change.

Then, at the Request of the Witness, the Minutes of this Evidence were read over to him.

And then the Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Veneris, 18^o die Martii 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great-Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded further in the Hearing of Evidence in Support of the Petition of the Callicoe Manufacturers and Printers, of the County Palatine of Lancaster, and Counties adjacent.

The Counsel was called in,

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH called in, and examined.

What is your Business?

A Callicoe Manufacturer and Printer.

What Number of Persons do you employ, distinguishing those employed in the Manufacture from those in the Printing?

We employ in the Callicoe Manufacture many Thousands, but I cannot accurately state the Number, but in Printing we employ generally from about Seven hundred to One thousand.

What is the Amount of Excise Duty paid by your House per Annum on the Manufacture?

The last Year it was about £. 20,000; this Year, if we continue to do the same Business, in consequence of the additional Tax imposed the last Session, it will amount to between £. 26,000 and £. 27,000.

Whether there are any Duties paid on the Manufacture, or the Printing of Cotton Goods, in Ireland?

There are, I believe, none.

What is the Proportion of the Price of Labour to the Price of the Raw Material in the Manufacture?

In the Goods most commonly made, the Proportion of the Price of Labour to the Raw Material exceeds One Half; in the higher Sort of Goods it will be as much as Seven-eighths, and in intermediate Qualities in Proportion.

What

What is the common Price of Labour paid by you in your Manufacture ?

The common Price of Labour is about 8s. per Week.

Do you know what is the common Price of Labour paid to the working People in the Linen Manufacture in Ireland ?

From the best Information I have been able to obtain on that Subject, it is about 4s. per Week, but I take it to be between 4s. and 5s. per Week.

Is not a considerable Part of your Capital employed in the Advance of the Excise Duties.

There certainly is about £.15 per Cent.

What is the Increase of Capital required by the English Manufacturer on account of the Advance of Duties, and the Difference of the Price of Labour in this Country and Ireland ?

It will be from £. 30 to £. 40 per Cent.

Whether a Cotton Weaver can be employed in weaving Linens, and can do it with equal Facility ?

I am certain he can, because the Linen Weavers in this Country make the best Callicoe Weavers.

In what Proportion will the Difference of Price of Labour in England and Ireland affect the Goods when manufactured ?

On the common Sorts it will be about £. 20 per Cent. and on the finer Sorts it will be more.

If the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland are made subject to a Duty of £. 10½ per Cent. on Importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irish Manufacture will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country ?

I have no Doubt of it.

If the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament should be adopted by the Legislature of Great Britain, do you suppose that the Price of Labour in Ireland will increase so as to remove the Inequality you complain of ?

As I have no Apprehension that the Resolutions, if adopted, can possibly on the Whole increase the Consumption of both Kingdoms, and the Price of Labour in Ireland should advance, I apprehend it would be in Consequence of the Transfer of the Manufactures of this Kingdom to that ; but although the Price of Labour may increase in Ireland, yet, until they have the same internal Taxes as are paid in this Country, I think the Price of Labour cannot increase to be equal with that of this Country.

Do

Do you apprehend that a Transfer of the Manufactures from this Country to Ireland will be One of the Consequences of adopting these Resolutions ?

I have no Doubt of it, so far as relates to our own Trade—the Cotton Manufacture.

Under the Circumstances you have stated, do you expect to carry on your Trade to the same large extent you do at present ?

Not in this Kingdom.

What Place would you chuse to carry it on in with more Advantage ?

Ireland.

Do you believe that other persons concerned in your Manufactures would likewise be induced to transfer it from this Country to Ireland ?

I think they would find it necessary.

If a Duty should be imposed on the Importation of Irish Printed Goods, do you apprehend that the Payment of it would be evaded, and that the Goods would be clandestinely introduced into this Country ?

I think there is no Doubt of it, because the Duties would be on the Importation of Irish Printed Goods, from £. 25 to £. 35 per Cent.

If Ireland has hitherto possessed the Advantages you have stated, how has it happened that large Quantities of Printed Goods have been exported from Great Britain to Ireland ?

I can only account for the Exportation of large Quantities of Printed Goods into Ireland, from the Superiority in the Execution and Taste, that this Country has hitherto maintained in the Printing Branch—the Goods exported to Ireland by our own House, and, as I am informed, by other Houses in the Trade, have principally been the higher priced Goods—The Common People in Ireland, who wear Printed Goods, have been supplied by Linens printed in Ireland.

Whether Persons employed in your Manufacture, and in those of your Neighbours, to the Amount of many Thousands, as you have stated, contribute to the Revenue of this Country by a large Consumption of Exciseable Commodities ?

Most assuredly they do, in Candles, Leather, Ale, Soap, and other Commodities.

Whether,

Whether, after all the Considerations you have given the Subject of these Resolutions, assisted by all the Explanation which you have had the Honour to receive, you have been able to discover any Advantage offered to the British Manufacturer, in his Commercial Intercourse with Ireland, which you do not at this Moment enjoy ?

As far as relates to our own Manufacture, I discover none that we did not enjoy before the Non-importation Agreement in Ireland.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Whether the Price of 8s. per Week for Labour is for Men only, or for Men, Women, and Children ?

For Men only ; and the Average Price of Labour, which I before stated for Ireland, is also the Price of Men's Labour ; and the Price of Women's and Children's Labour in both Countries I understand to be in Proportion to the Men's.

What is the Average Price of Women's Labour in this Country, and of Children's also.

The Price of Women's Labour I understand to be about 4s. or from 4s. to 5s. per Week—The Price of Children's Labour about 2s. 6d.

In your Manufacture, what is the Proportion of Women to Men employed in it ?

The Proportion of Women is rather less than Men, and of Children also.

Do you know whether, in the Linen Manufacture in Ireland, there is the same Proportion of Women and Children employed ?

I am not fully competent to answer that Question.

Is there not a great Part of the Labour in the Cotton Manufactures performed by Machines ?

There is a great Part ; but it is that which relates only to the Spinning of the Cotton Warp.

In the Value of the Labour in each particular Manufacture, what is the Proportion of that which is done by the Machine ?

It is but small—but the precise Proportion I cannot state.

Has not the Invention of Machines, and particularly of Mr. Arkwright's, been esteemed of great Advantage to the Manufacturer

facturer who uses them, so as to give a greater Profit on his Manufacture ?

There has been a considerable Advantage derived from the Invention of Machines—One is, that the Manufacture has been carried to a much more considerable Extent than it would otherwise have been carried to—but in Point of Profit the Manufactory at large, though they may have derived some, yet not a very great Advantage.

Has not the Expence of manufacturing Cottons been diminished considerably by the Invention of Machines ?

The Expence of spinning the Warp may have been diminished, but not considerably.—I mean that it has not been diminished considerably with respect to the Manufacture at large. !

Has it not been diminished with respect to those who employed those Machines ?

Certainly it has.

Has the Price of Labour in any other Respect, within these last Twenty Years, been increased ?

I am not competent to speak to the Price of Labour for Twenty Years, but within my Memory there has been little Variation, I believe.

Whether Machines are used to the same Extent in the Linen Manufacture as they are in the Cotton Manufacture ?

I believe not.

Whether the Price of Cotton, the Raw Material, is the same in Great Britain and Ireland ?

I do not know the Price of Cotton in Ireland, but I have Reason to think there is no great Difference, if any.

Is the Raw Material of the Linen Manufacture cheaper in Ireland than in England ?

I am not acquainted with the Price of the Raw Material of the Linen Manufacture, either in Ireland or England.

Are not great Quantities of Flax and Linen Yarn imported from Ireland into England—even brought to Manchester ?

I believe there are great Quantities of Linen Yarn imported from Ireland into England, but in the Manufacture in which I am concerned it is not used.

Do not you know that there is a very great and increasing Linen Manufactory in this Island ?

With respect to a Linen Manufacture in England, as far as I know,

know, it is but very small;—with respect to Scotland there are considerable Quantities of Linen Manufactures, principally I believe for the Purpose of printing Handkerchiefs.

Do not you know that there is a great and increasing Manufacture of Table Linen in this Kingdom?

I know that there is a Manufacture of Table Linen in this Kingdom, but I know not to what Extent, nor whether increasing or otherwise.

If it should appear that there is a great and increasing Linen Manufacture in this Country, notwithstanding the low Price of Labour in Ireland—the Cheapness of the Raw Material in Ireland compared with that in England—the less Use of Machinery in the Article of Linen than of Cotton—and that Linen is allowed to be imported from Ireland Duty-free;—Whether all those Circumstances together would not diminish your Apprehensions with respect to the Cotton Manufacture?

I know not from what Circumstance the Manufacture of Table Linen in this Country has an Advantage over Ireland; but with respect to the Manufacture of Plain Linens, of which the Part consumed is by very far the most considerable, neither England nor Scotland can bring them to this Market on Terms equal with Ireland.

Will you take upon yourself to say, that of the common Linens used in this Country, the Quantity of that made here is not greater than that brought from Ireland?

I know not how far the Term *Common* is meant to apply: If by *Common* is meant the Average, I believe the Quantity of Linens imported from Ireland is considerably greater than that made in Great Britain.

Will you take on yourself to say, that the Quantity of Linen of all Sorts made in Great Britain is less than that which is imported from Ireland?

I will not take upon myself positively to say it is, but I have always understood that the Quantity of Linen imported from Ireland has exceeded the Quantity made in Great Britain. I beg to say, that what I know of the Linen Trade is particularly confined to that Part of it which immediately relates to our own Trade of Printing. We have frequently purchased very large Quantities of Irish Linens, more particularly at the Time when Cotton was at the highest Price; and I have frequently looked at Quantities of British Linens, but could never purchase them so cheap as I could those from Ireland.

Is there not a considerable Exportation of Corn, Potatoes, and Beer, from Lancashire into Ireland?

I am not competent to speak to that question, as I reside in London.

If there is such an Importation into Ireland from this Country, whether the low Price of Labour there is not rather to be imputed to the Manner in which the Irish live, than to any other Cause?

I imagine that the low Price of Labour in Ireland may in Part be owing to the low Manner in which they live, but principally to the low Price of Provisions in general, and to their Exemption from the Taxes with which the labouring People of this Country are burthened.

If the Irish import Provisions from this Country, must not the Price of those imported Provisions be dearer there than here?

If Provisions were universally imported into Ireland from this Country, there is no Doubt but that those Provisions must be dearer there than here; and whatever Part may be imported from this Country must be dearer in that Country than this.

Are not the principal Manufactures in Ireland carried on in those Parts of Ireland nearest to Great Britain?

I am not fully competent to answer that Question: I understand that the Manufactures in Ireland spread over the North of Ireland.

If the Manufacturers of this Country were to remove to Ireland, will they not expect to live there as well as they do here?

I cannot answer for their Expectations.

Have there not been attempts to establish the Cotton Manufacture in Foreign Countries, where Labour is cheaper than in Great Britain?

I understand there has, and that they have succeeded, and that they are now succeeding.

Have the Cotton Manufacturers of Great Britain found that any Foreign Manufactures in Cotton have materially rivalled them in Foreign Countries?

I cannot speak positively to any Part of the Cotton Manufacture but that in which I am concerned:—With respect to Printed Calicoes they are rivalled, and are now almost beat out of every Market, by the Introduction into this Country, and Re-exportation, of India Goods.

Have

Have our Manufactures been rivalled by any Cotton Manufactures established in any European Countries, in the Foreign Market?

They are not only rivalled, but excluded in many Parts of Europe—I speak now with respect to Printed Goods.

Has the Exportation generally of the Cotton Manufacture increased or decreased of late Years?

I have formerly stated to the Committee that I am not fully competent to speak with respect to the Cotton Trade in general, but only to that Part in which I am concerned.

Whether the Manufacture of Printed Goods in general has not lately increased in this Country?

It has certainly increased, but I beg to state the Occasion:—In the last Year, in which it principally increased, there was a very great Scarcity both of India Whites, and Printed Goods, and in Consequence of that Scarcity the Orders that were received in this Country from America for East India Printed Goods were executed with British Printed Goods. It is also to be added, that there were also very considerable Quantities of British Printed Goods exported on Speculation, which have overstocked, according to the best Advices, the American Market very considerably.

Whether the Trade in Printed Goods has not gradually increased for many Years past?

I believe there has been a gradual Increase of the Consumption of Printed Goods in this Country, till within the last Two or Three Years, since which, if there has been any Increase, it has been inconsiderable.

Whether the Irish have ever manufactured any great Quantity of Cotton Goods?

I believe not, as far as relates to that Part of the Manufacture in which I am engaged.

Whether there has not been a large Exportation of those Goods from Great Britain to Ireland?

There has been a considerable Export of those Goods to Ireland.

Whether those Goods were not burthened with a Duty of $\text{£}.10\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. on the Importation into Ireland?

They were.

Whether they were not also charged with a Freight of $\text{£}.2$ or $\text{£}.2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. and Port Charges?

They were; Freight and Charges from $\text{£}.2$ to $\text{£}.2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

If we have sent therefore so great a Quantity of Printed Goods under these Burthens from Great Britain to Ireland, assign your Reasons why you apprehend that the Irish will send those Goods to us loaded with the same Burthens, and with a Duty equal to the Excise and Inland Duty paid on those Goods?

I beg on this Question to divide the Manufacture from the Printing.—Calicoe Goods manufactured in the plain State have been prohibited from being imported into this Country—the middling and the lower Sort of People in Ireland, having approved of the Fashion, the Execution, and the Taste of our Printed Calicoes, have encouraged the Importation of them into that Country, under the Disadvantages of Freight and internal Duty.—If the Resolutions before the House pass into a Law, I do not apprehend the immediate Transfer of the Printing Trade from this Country to that, but I have strong Reason to apprehend, that Irish Cotton Goods being manufactured at a less Expence in that Kingdom than in this, they would be imported into this Country, not only with a View to have them printed here and re-exported to Ireland, but for the Supply of the Consumption of this Country in that Article.

Are there not many Parts of Great Britain, in which Labour is much cheaper than in the Neighbourhood of Manchester?

I am not certain of that.

If there are Parts where Labour is much cheaper, is it not as probable that the Manufacturers of Manchester would remove there on that Account, as to Ireland?

If there are Parts of this Country in which Labour is as cheap as in Ireland, and the People in those Parts are used to the weaving of Goods, it would be as probable.

Is it probable that the Irish Linen Weaver will quit his Linen Loom to which he has been used, and with respect to which his Goods have a free Importation into this Country, and apply himself to weave Cotton Goods, in order to import them into this Country, under the Burthen before mentioned?

If the Linen Weaver in Ireland can, by turning his Hand to the Manufacture of Calicoes or Cottons, gain 6*d.* a Week more than he at present does, there is not a Doubt but he would.

Can you assign any Reason to induce the Committee to believe, that the Linen Weaver will, by that Change of Occupation, gain 6*d.* a Week more?

Certainly: If the Irish, as I have stated, can at present manufacture Cotton Goods £.20 per Cent, lower or even £.10 per Cent.
the

the Employer can afford to pay the Weaver 6*d.* a Week more, if necessary, and yet sufficiently under-work the Manufacturer of this Country, to export his Goods from that Country to this.—I beg to have it understood, that I do not state that an Advance of 6*d.* a Week is necessary.

Do you apprehend by the intended Regulations, that the Manufacturer of Ireland will be able to undersell the English Manufacturer in Great Britain, or in Foreign Countries?

My Evidence all along has gone, that the Manufacturer of Ireland will undersell the Manufacturer of Great Britain in this Country.

State the Difference of Terms in which the Manufacturers of the Two Countries will meet in the English Market?

I believe One of the earliest Answers I gave goes to that Question.

Question repeated.

The Manufacturer in Ireland, in the most general Articles of our Manufacture, will have an Advantage of £.20 per Cent. on the Goods when manufactured, before the Importation into Great Britain. There is, I understand, to be a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. consequently the Manufacturer of Ireland, or rather the Importer of the Manufactures of Ireland, will derive an Advantage in this Market over the British Manufacturer, of £.9½ per Cent.

Will not the Freight from Ireland to England be £.2 per Cent. which you have stated to be the Freight from England to Ireland; and will there not be other Charges as Insurance and Commission, besides a longer Disburse of Money, and further Difficulties in obtaining Payment?

I stated that the Expences of Freight and other Charges would amount from £.2 to £.2½ per Cent. and to this £.10½ per Cent. I readily admit it ought to be added; but there are Disadvantages on the Part of the English Manufacturer and Printer, much more than sufficient to counterbalance the £.2½ per Cent. The Disadvantages to which I refer are, in the First Place, the Increase of Capital to provide for the Duties payable, and the Increase of Capital on Account of the Price of Labour. Those Two Disadvantages are, in my Opinion, very much more than sufficient to counterbalance the £.2½ per Cent.; but there is a further Disadvantage, which is, that if Ireland can with her Manufactures supply this Country cheaper than the English Manufacturer, she must inevitably draw the Ready Money Trade of this Country. The English Manufacturer will then only have left him that Part of the Trade in
which

which long Credit is required, consequently his Capacity for continuing his Manufactory to the same Extent he now does, if there were no other Reasons against it, would be considerably diminished.

Whether the Disadvantages you have now stated are not reckoned as a part of the £.20 per Cent. which you stated to be the Preference of the Irish Manufacturer over the English—and upon what priced Goods you have made the Computation now given in?

They were not included in the £.20 per Cent. I before stated; and if you refer to that Part of my Examination, you will see they were not.—The Computation that I have made is upon Goods which stand the Manufacturer in 28s. a Piece, or 1s. a Yard; and the Articles of our Manufacture go from 1s. a Yard to 4s. a Yard.

Are you prepared to shew that the Allegation in the Petition, “That the Irish are in a great Measure free from Taxes,” is well grounded?

I cannot be prepared to shew what the Taxes of Ireland are, but it is notorious that the People of Ireland are taxed in a much less Degree than the People of this Country.

Do you mean that they are lower taxed, in Proportion to the Ability to pay?

I am not competent to speak of their Ability to pay.

Have you never heard of the Hearth Money being paid by the Manufacturers in Ireland?

I have heard there is a Tax called by that Name.

Have you not also heard that Beer, Spirits, Leather, and Tobacco, are excised in that Kingdom?

I have heard there are various Taxes of Excise in that Country, but cannot state particularly what they are.—The Occasion of my mentioning the Difference between the Taxes in this Country and in Ireland, was to shew the Committee in what Manner I account for the very great Difference in point of Labour.

Do you know the Prices paid to Manufacturers in the Cotton Works near Dublin?

I do not.

Have

Have you not heard that the lowest Price paid to Spinners there is 6s. a Week.

I have not—but I understand that very great Encouragements have in various Ways been given to that Manufacture, for the Purpose of introducing and establishing it in that Kingdom.

Have you not heard that if those public Grants were withdrawn, the Manufacture would fall to the Ground?

I have not—but I beg to have it observed, that the Manufacture of Cotton Goods near Dublin, as I understand, has been turned generally to what is, by Way of Distinction, called The Manchester *Fustian* Trade; and that it does not apply to the Manufacture of Callicoes.

Does not Ireland import a large Part of the Cotton it uses from this Country?

Ireland may, probably, frequently import Quantities of Cotton from this Country, owing to the Fluctuations in Price, which are very considerable. When Ireland can import from this Country Cotton at a lower Price than she can import from the West Indies, she will certainly take it from this Country; and also England may, under the contrary, but similar Circumstances, import it from Ireland.

When Ireland imports Cotton from hence, is not a second Freight, Commission, and other Charges, to be added to the original Price of the Material?

Certainly it is; —but I beg to add, that in the Importation of Cotton from England into Ireland the Manufacturer or the Importer considers those Charges; and unless, with those Charges, he can import the Cotton from England at a lower Price than from the West Indies, he will not do it.

If Ireland imports Cotton directly from the West Indies, is the Freight as high as to England from the West Indies?

I do not understand that it is; but I cannot speak decidedly upon that Subject.

Do you know of any other Advantage enjoyed by Ireland in the Cotton Manufactory, except the low Price of Labour?

There are Advantages by Bounties, but I do not apprehend that those would apply generally to the Manufacture.—The Articles of our Manufacture are divisible but into Two Parts, the one is the Raw Material, the other the Manual Labour.

Do

Do you not think that as Ireland became a manufacturing Country the Price of Labour would naturally rise ?

I do think it would ; but, as I have stated before, I apprehend the Increase of the Price of Labour in Ireland would be in Consequence of the Transfer, and the Decline of the Manufactures of this Country.

Do you think that Manufactures always follow cheap Labour ?

I will not state that in all Cases they follow cheap Labour, but I believe our Manufactures would follow cheap Labour.

Did you ever know, or hear, that Raw Cotton was imported into this Country through Ireland ?

I never did ; but if there is a great Consumption of Cotton, and consequently great Encouragement to the Importation of that Article into Ireland, it is far from improbable that this Country might import Cotton from Ireland.

Do you know whether in Ireland the Master Manufacturer does not sometimes pay his Workmen by the Piece ?

I understand he does.

Do you know how much per Week the Manufacturer, when paid by the Piece, earns on Cloth of that Sort which is made in what is called a Nine hundred Reed ?

I do not know what he may gain per Week in the Manufactory of that Sort of Cloth made in the Nine hundred Reed ; but, from the best Information I have been able to obtain, the Weaver, in manufacturing those Goods that are about of a similar Fineness and Quality to the most general Articles of our Manufacture, gains or earns about 4s. per Week.

Of what nature is that Information, and upon what Evidence do you ground your Opinion that the Price of Labour in Ireland is 4s. per Week ?

From Conversation with Persons of that Kingdom, who have had Opportunities of knowing that Manufactory.

Do you imagine that the Quantity of Cloth made in Ireland, and imported into Great Britain, for the Consumption of this Country, of a Value not exceeding Fourteen Pence per Yard, exceeds the Quantity of Cloth of a similar Price made in this Kingdom for Home Consumption ?—This Question is with regard to Linens.

With respect to Linens, though I am not competent to speak precisely on the Subject, I apprehend the Importation of Goods costing

costing the Irish Manufacturer Fourteen Pence and under, exceeds the Quantity manufactured for similar Purposes in this Kingdom.

Is it not a considerable Advantage to the Irish Manufacturer, Mr. Arkwright's Patent not extending to that Country?

If Mr. Arkwright enjoys an exclusive Right to the Spinning of Cotton in his Mode in this Country, there cannot be a Doubt but that the Advantages Ireland would derive from the Formation and Use of those Machines would be very considerable.

Can you inform the Committee if any Agreement has been made with Mr. Arkwright, since that Verdict was given in his Favour, by any of the Manufacturers; and what Sum has been offered for the Liberty of working with his Machine?

I know nothing positively on the subject; but I have heard that there have been such Agreements made, at the Rate of 5*s.* per Spindle per Annum.—This is merely from Report.

Do you not know, that a great Quantity of Provisions are imported from Ireland into Lancashire, for the Use of the Manufacturers of that County?

I have understood that there are.

Do you know that the Exportation of Provisions from Ireland is the next Trade, in Point of Consequence, to the Exportation of Linen?

I have always understood that it is; and lately I have been particularly informed, by a very large Contractor for Irish Provisions, that it is.

Is it not your Opinion, that the flourishing State of the Linen Manufacture in Ireland arises chiefly from the Liberty which they have of importing it Duty-free into this Country?

The flourishing State of the Linen Trade in Ireland is certainly very much occasioned by the free Importation of it into this Country; and the Preference it has in this Market is, I apprehend, to be accounted for in the Manner in which I have before stated it, from the low Price of Labour.

Is it not your Opinion that the Duty on Houses, Windows, and Lands, and the Parish Rates in this Country, do greatly exceed what is levied on the Manufacturer in Ireland, under the Name of Hearth Money?

I apprehend the Duty on Land, and the Parish Rates, do considerably exceed that Hearth Money, as I have understood it; but I do not know that the Duty on Houses and Windows in this Case applies, because the Cottages in which the Manufacturers reside are, I believe, exempt from both.

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Do

Do you think the Manufacturers pay either Land Tax or Parish Rates, any more than they do the Duty on Houses and Windows?

The first-mentioned Rates they will frequently be exempted from—The Tax on Land I rather think will frequently apply.

What is the whole Expence per Cent. of bringing Goods from Ireland to the London Market?

I am not certain, not being concerned in the Importation of Irish Goods into the London Market; but the Average of the Expences attending the Importation of Irish Goods into Great Britain will not, I believe, exceed $\text{£} .2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

What is the Expence of bringing Goods from Manchester to London by Land Carriage?

The Expence of Land Carriage on our Articles is about $\text{£} .1\frac{1}{4}$ per Cent.

When you stated, that you employed many Thousand People in the Manufacture, and from Seven hundred to One thousand in the Printing Business, did you mean to say that they worked for you alone?

The Weavers employed in the Manufacture many of them frequently work for more than One House, those in the Printing are constantly employed by One House.

Can you inform the Committee of the Average Price which West India Cotton bore in the British Market for the Year 1784?

I cannot precisely speak of the Average Price, there was a considerable Fluctuation in the Price.

Do you know the Average Price it bore in the Irish Market for the same Year?

No.

When you stated the Expence of bringing Irish Goods to the British Market, did you mean to include in that the Inland Carriage from the Place of Manufacture to the Place of Exportation?

I did not.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel informed the Committee that he had no more Witnesses to call.

And he was heard.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Mercurii

Mercurii, 6^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That the Commissioners of the Customs attended at the Door;

They were called in, and presented
The Report * of the Commissioners for Managing, and causing to be levied and collected, His Majesty's Customs, in return to an Order of this Committee.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

And the Title of the said Report was read.

To report a Progress, &c.

• This Report being already printed, is not here inserted.

Jovis, 7^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That the Commissioners of Excise attended at the Door;

They were called in, and presented

The Report * of the Commissioners of Excise, in pursuance of the Order of this Committee.

And then they were directed to withdraw.

And the Title of the said Report was read.

The Committee being informed, that Counsel attended on the Part of the Petition of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and others, resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of Manchester;

The Counsel (Mr. Erskine) was called in.

Then the said Petition was read, Setting forth, That the Petitioners presume, with all Humility, to express how much they are alarmed at the Propositions which have been lately moved in the House, respecting the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, which as they conceive will, if passed into a Law, most essentially injure the Commerce and Manufactures of this Kingdom: And therefore praying, that they may be heard in Support of their Petition at the Bar of the House.

The Committee was moved, That the Petition of the Callicoe Manufacturers and Printers of the County Palatine of Lancaster, and Counties adjacent, might be read.

And the same being read accordingly;

The Counsel was heard in Support of the Petition now under Consideration.

* This Report being already printed, is not here inserted.

Mr. THOMAS WALKER called in, and examined.

Was you examined before a Committee of Privy Council ?

Yes.

On what Day was you first examined ?

The 31st Day of January last.

Had you Notice given you on what Subject you was to be examined ?

I had not.

On what Occasion was you in London ?

I was delegated by the Town of Manchester to deliver a Memorial to the Treasury, soliciting for a Repeal of the Act passed in the last Session imposing a Duty on bleached and dyed Cotton Stuffs.

Had you or your Employers any Knowledge of the Irish Propositions ?

I had not ; nor did I ever hear that any One in the Town of Manchester had.

It appears by the Report of the Committee of Privy Council (Page 37) that you was asked :—

“ Have the Irish Manufacturers any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour.”

And that you was also asked,

“ Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade ?”

To which you gave certain Answers.—You was then asked—

“ If the Irish and British Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade were put upon the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties, as well internally as upon Export from one Country to the other, should you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition in the British or Irish Market ?”

What Answer did you then give to this last Question ?

That I conceived I had answered it by the Answers I had given to the Two preceding Questions.

Whether the same Question was repeated to you after you had said, that you conceived you had answered it by the two preceding Answers ?

It was.

Do you recollect the Answer exactly which you gave to the Question, when put again ?

I do not remember exactly, but I am very much mistaken if the Word *these* made any Part of it.

Who

Who examined you?

Mr. Jenkinson.

Do you recollect to have had any Conversation with Mr. Jenkinson as to what you meant by *all Respects*, as contradistinguished from *all THESE Respects*?

I do.—When I was examined some Days afterwards, I told Mr. Jenkinson that by the Words *all Respects* I meant that Ireland and England should be on equal Terms.—He asked me, if I supposed that Great Britain could lay a Tax on Irish Windows, Soap, and various other Articles, which he enumerated; or, that I supposed that the Duties could be taken off the same Articles in England—to which I answered, that I had no such Expectation, but that till that was done, or the Countries were by some Means put upon the same Footing, the Irish and English Manufactures would not be on the same Footing.

Was it not understood between Mr. Jenkinson and you, at the Time of your last Examination, that (when you said, that if the Cotton Trade was protected by £10½ per Cent. it would be a sufficient Security) you took into your Consideration likewise an Equality between the Countries in all other Respects?

I understood it in that Light, and I have no doubt but Mr. Jenkinson understood it in the same Light.

At what Time did that Conversation of the taxed State of England, and the untaxed State of Ireland, take place—was it on the Day of your last Examination?

It was on Saturday the 5th of February.

Has the Fustian Trade to Ireland increased or decreased of late? It has decreased very considerably.

To what do you attribute that Decrease?

To the great Perfection to which they have brought the Fustian Manufactures.

In what Parts of Ireland is the Fustian Trade carried on to the greatest Extent?

At Prosperous, about Eighteen Miles from Dublin, where I am told, in the Manufacture of Captain Brooke alone, there are at this Time at least Five thousand People employed.

Do you know any other Parts of Ireland where this Manufacture is carried on?

I am told that it is carried on at Belfast, Newry, and Balbriggan.

How

How long has the Fustian Manufacture been established in Ireland?

They have manufactured Fustians in small Quantities for some Time. I cannot say the particular Time, but not in any Degree to the Extent they now carry them on, till within these last Two or Three Years.

Do you know of any Offers made to any Manufacturers or principal Workmen to leave this Country and settle in Ireland?

I do—I know several principal Manufacturers who have lately had very advantageous Offers made them to leave this Country and go to Ireland; and I have a Letter in my Hand, which, if I am permitted to read, will point out very strongly the Advantages that Country enjoys over this:—It is signed Thomas D. Brooke, dated Prosperous, 9th December, 1783, and directed to Mr. R. Worthington, Garret, near Manchester, and is to the following Effect:

*Prosperous, near Naas, Ireland,
9 December 1783.*

SIR,

YOU may perhaps think it extraordinary to be troubled with a Letter from a Stranger; but as a Brother Manufacturer I have heard of you, and as it is not impossible but that you may have heard of my Brother, Captain Brooke, I hope you will excuse the Liberty I take.

The Purport of my Letter is to throw out for your Consideration a proposal for a Connection in the Printing Line; and to enable you to judge how far such a Connection might be eligible, I shall just state a few Circumstances.

1st. Excepting on Coarse Linens, there is very little Printing done in this Kingdom, our Home Consumption being chiefly supplied from your Side; and the Goods pay a Duty of £.10 per Cent. and will probably have a heavier Duty laid on before this Session of Parliament is over.

2dly. We have no Printers here with any Capitals worth naming, and therefore the Business is very badly conducted.

3dly. Our Factory is the only One in the Kingdom in which any considerable Quantity of good Cottons or Calicoes are made, excepting One or Two others.

4thly. There is no Excise Duty here.

5thly. There is the same Freedom of Export that you enjoy in England, Linens much cheaper, and high Bounties on low-priced Printed Goods.

Now

Now from these Premises I think the following Conclusion may be drawn, viz. That a complete and well-conducted Printing Establishment here would turn out most advantageously.—And to prove that greater Advantages would be derived from attempting it in Connection with us, than from any Strangers attempting it singly, I shall mention the following Circumstances.

1st. A ready Market is established for the Sale of all we manufacture ; and the public Tide is in our Favor.

2dly. We are acquainted with the Customs of the Country, and the People in it.

3dly. Our Capital, and the Number of our Looms, enables us to extend in whatever Department of the Manufacture turns to best Account.

4thly. Our Situation is convenient, only Eighteen Miles from Dublin ; we have the Benefit of Water Carriage by the Canal ; the Land on which our Factory is erected, and all the Buildings, belong to my Brother, so that there can be no Combinations ; and we might form what Regulations we pleased, provided they were not unjust.

5thly. The Water is uncommonly good for bleaching and dying ; and Firing is plenty.

6thly. Almost all the expensive Work is done, the Green complete, Coppers, Presses, Stoves, Callendars, &c. &c. &c. all in working Order, so that we might start into the most extensive Work even this Spring.

7thly. We have some excellent Hands in the Machinery Way, with all necessary Tools and Work Shops.—We work Charles Taylor's Patent Machine to full Yard Wides in Perfection, inso-much as to execute narrower and neater Bengals than was ever done in any Printing Ground (to my Belief) in Europe ; and we have besides some other extraordinary Machines, calculated for Expedition.—We have for some Time printed our Cottons, Calicoes, and Ververets ; and although we can execute as good Work as any in the Kingdom, and although my Brother has lately got a Parliamentary Grant of Twenty-five thousand Pounds, yet he wishes for a Connection in the Printing Department, and for the following Reasons :—When we began the Manufacture, we were obliged to do every thing, or nothing ; and accordingly we now spin, weave, cut, dye, dress, finish, bleach, and print, to superintend and manage which is too extensive for Mr. Ogden and myself, who have the chief Guidance of every Thing ; and besides, the Length of Time Goods lie on Hands, from the Raw Cotton till they are printed, sold, and paid for, demands a very powerful

powerful Capital.—Having been thus explicit, I shall just mention, that I would not wish to form a Connection with a Person who would not throw in at least £.5,000, more if he pleased, and we should equal him, or not, as might be agreed.—We should leave the general Conduct of the Business entirely to the Partner, whom I would suppose to be Master of it.—I forgot to mention, that this is a cheaper Country than your's, and that Labour is cheaper accordingly ; and I also omitted to mention, that there is a late Act of Parliament made here, which guards against the dangerous Consequences which frequently used to attend Partnerships.—Respecting my Brother's Character and my own, I shall leave that to the World.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Thomas D. Brooke.

P. S. The Printing Business has been greatly kept down here, by the Printers following English Patterns ; so that the Novelty, and good Prices attending that Novelty, was all overcome before the Drapers could get their Goods from the Printers.—If One of your Sons were fixed here, and a proper Correspondence preserved, I will venture to say we should skim the Cream of the Irish Market.

Whether, if the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament should pass into a Law, do you think there would be Danger of the Manufacturers transferring their Capitals to Ireland ?

I am confident that the Manufacturers of this Country would transfer their Capitals to Ireland ; and from the Letter I have just read, it appears to me, that is all the Irish want.

Whether the prohibitory Duty upon Cotton, which exists at present, is not One of the Reasons why the Irish Cotton Manufacturer wants a Capital ?

I am greatly of Opinion that it is the chief Reason.

Whether, if the Cotton Manufacturers of Ireland had the English Market open to them at the £.10½ per Cent. they could not undersell the Manufacturers at Manchester ?

In the Fustian Trade, in which I am concerned, in many Articles I have no Doubt but that they could at this Time do it ; and I have every Reason to believe, that in a short Time they would undersell us in the other Fustian Articles :—In the Check Trade from the Irish having the Raw Material from £.7½ to £.10 per Cent. or more cheaper, besides the Advantage of Labour, Exemption from Taxation, &c. the same Argument holds good with respect to the Small Ware Trade ; and I have been told, by the

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First

First Manufacturer in Manchester in the Silk Way, that if the Irish Resolutions pass into a Law, it will be impossible for him to carry on his Trade in this Country.

Whether the Irish Resolutions will affect the Export Trade of this Manufacture?

I am of Opinion, that the Ninth Resolution may very materially affect the Export Trade to Russia and Germany.

In what Manner would it affect that Trade?

By securing to Ireland the eternal Right of importing into England her Linens Duty-free, and by precluding this Country at any Time from lowering the Duties upon those of Russia and Germany.

As the Linen Yarn comes dearer to the English Manufacturer than to the Irish, you will account for the Difference of the Price.

I have the Copies of Two Invoices here *—By One of which it appears, that the Expences are Seven and a Half per Cent.; and by the other Thirteen—The Reason why One so much exceeds the other is, that the latter is a coarser Kind of Yarn, of which the low-priced Checks are manufactured, and on which the Duties fall the heaviest.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

The Committee was moved, That the Minutes of a certain Part of the Evidence given by this Witness, on Monday the 21st of March last, before a Committee of the Whole House, to whom it was referred to consider of the Petition of the Gentlemen, Clergy, Land Owners, Merchants, Manufacturers, Dyers, Bleachers, and others interested in the Fustian Trade in the Towns of Manchester, Salford, Bolton, Leigh, Warrington, Rochdale, Oldham, Ashton, Bury, Chorley, Stockport, Macclesfield, and Chapel en le Frith, and in the Boroughs of Wigan and Newton, and of the respective Neighbourhoods of those Towns and Boroughs, in the Counties of Lancaster, Chester, and Derby, respecting his Examination before a Committee of Privy Council, might be read to the Witness;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follows:—

* Copies of these Invoices are inserted at the End of this Day's Examination, marked (A) and (B).

“ Do you think that if the British and Irish Manufactures in the Cotton Trade were put on the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties upon the Manufacture, without being put precisely on the same Footing in respect to all relative Circumstances, that all Dread of Competition of the Irish Manufacture to the British would be removed ?

“ I do not, nor ever did.

“ Did you ever consent to its being stated to be your Opinion that such Dread would be removed ?

“ No.”

The Committee was also moved, That the Minutes of a certain other Part of the same Evidence might be read ;

And the same were read accordingly, and is as follows :

“ Whether every Question put to you by the Committee of Privy Council, after it was stated, was not distinctly read to you and Mr. Richardson ?

“ Certainly.

“ Inform the Committee whether every Answer that was given by you and Mr. Richardson was not read over to you after it was taken down by the Clerk of the Council ?

“ It was ; but I do now recollect a Circumstance, and which I did not till this Day recollect, which I mentioned, and which I do not see in the printed Report, neither was it in the written one, which was—When I stated to the Committee of the Council the Increase of the Fustian Manufacture in Ireland, I mentioned a Circumstance that I had from the best Authority, of a Gentleman from America, who I think, as my Memory serves me, Eighteen Months ago came to purchase Manufactures where he could meet with them on the best Terms, having the Advantage of Ready Money ; he bought but few Fustians in Manchester, assigning for a Reason, that he had been in Ireland, where he thought he could meet with them on better Terms, but that he would take a few from Manchester, which he did, and the Remainder he purchased from Ireland in his Return to America, with which he was so much better satisfied, that, as I am informed, he wrote to his Manchester Correspondent he should want no more Goods from Manchester.

“ You will inform the Committee, whether you was not permitted to correct your Evidence, if there was any Omission or Mistake ; and whether you did not go with the Clerk of the Privy Council into the Room for that Purpose ?

“ I certainly did.

“ Whether you was not permitted to have, and had a Copy of your own Evidence before the Committee of Council ?

“ I had.

“ Whether you did not send into the Committee of Council Corrections of your own Evidence ?

“ I did.

“ Whether the following Question was not put to you or Mr. Richardson ; and whether you did not give the following Answer, viz.

“ Q. If the Cotton Manufactures of Ireland are made subject to a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. on Importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irish Manufacturer will be able to supply the English Market, to the Detriment of the Cotton Trade of this Country ?

“ A. If the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption.”

“ Certainly ; but it had a Reference to the former Part of my Evidence.

“ The Witness then read that Evidence from the printed Report, as follows.

“ Q. Have the Irish Manufacturers any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour ?

“ Manufacturers

“ A. We conceive that Labour is much cheaper there than here, but in what Proportion we cannot say. The Irish must have a great Advantage in the Cheapness of Provisions besides being exempt from Land Tax, and Excise on Soap, Candles, Leather, and many other Articles, while we are burthened therewith, and in Stamp Duties upon Bills, Receipts, &c. &c. We know they have many of our Machines already, and we have no Doubt they will soon have them all.

“ Q. Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade ?

“ Manufacturers

“Manufacturers

“A. Undamped, unchecked, and untaxed, we have not a
“Doubt but he will be equal, if not superior, to any other
“Manufacturer in the World.

“Q. If the Irish and British Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade
“were put upon the same Footing with respect to Taxes and
“Bounties as well internally as upon Export from One
“Country to the other, should you have any Reason to ap-
“prehend a Competition in the British or Irish Market?

“A. If we were put in all these Respects upon equal terms, we
“should not apprehend a Competition at either Market.

“The Committee think it proper in this Place to inform Your
“Majesty, that the above Witnesses sent the next Day, and
“desired to correct their former Answer.

“Manufacturers

“A. If we can, *in all Respects*, be put upon equal Terms, Eng-
“land and Ireland will naturally supply themselves with Cot-
“ton Goods for their internal Consumption, and in Foreign
“Markets we shall meet upon equal Terms; except in Ame-
“rica and the West Indies, where Ireland will certainly have
“an Advantage in Freight and Insurance, exclusive of the
“very great Saving she will enjoy in the Victualling of her
“Ships.”

“Then the Witness proceeded.

“My Idea was, that if we were in all Respects upon equal
“Terms, £.10½ per Cent. would be a protecting Duty to this
“Country.

“Did you ever apply to the Council to correct or explain that
“last Answer in the Manner now stated, or in any other Man-
“ner whatsoever?

“I did not.

“Was not Mr. Thomas Stanley, a Member of this House,
“present at the Examination before the Committee of Privy
“Council?

“He was.

“Did you not take it for granted, before you quitted the Com-
“mittee of Privy Council, that it was perfectly understood
“by

by the Members of that Committee, that this Expression
 “in all Respects” had a Reference to the former Answer?

“Undoubtedly.

“Do you recollect the Chairman of the Committee of Privy Council desiring to have the Words “in all *THESE* Respects” instead of the Words “in all Respects?”

“Perfectly well.

“Were the Words taken as you desired to have them taken?

“I do not recollect the Word *these* being Part of my Answer.

“[The Question and Answer again shewn him.]

“Is not that taken in all Respects as you desired it to be taken?

“I do not recollect that the Word *these*, in the First Answer, in Page 38, stood Part of my Evidence.

“Was not you afterwards allowed to correct it; and does it not stand in the Answer, as corrected, “in all Respects?”

“Certainly.

“Was Mr. Thomas Stanley present when you was examined the Second Time?

“He was.

“Whether, when you gave your Answer, alluded to in Page 40, you apprehended, after what previously passed, that it could be construed to mean that £. 10½ per Cent. Duty would be a sufficient Protection to the English Cotton Manufacturer, England and Ireland not being put on an Equality in the Points you had before alluded to?

“I certainly did not apprehend that it could be construed into an Idea that £. 10½ per Cent. would protect the Home Consumption of this Country.

“Is the Committee to understand, that if this House had proceeded on an Opinion, that in your Judgment the £. 10½ per Cent. would have been a sufficient Protection, without any other Measure being taken to render the Situation of the Countries equal, they would have proceeded under a mistake of your real Opinion?

“Certainly under a very great Mistake.

“Have not you and Mr. Richardson been frequently in Town since you last attended the Committee of Privy Council?

“We have been into Lancashire since that Time, where we staid

staid a Fortnight, and have been in London since the 13th Instant.

“ Was not you in Town for some Days immediately after you attended the Committee of Privy Council ?

“ We were.

“ Did you ever apply to explain or correct your last Answer ?

“ I did not.

“ Had you ever the least idea that that Answer could be made use of in Support of the Propositions passed in the Irish Parliament, and now under the Consideration of a Committee of the House of Commons ?

“ I certainly had not.

“ When you was before the Committee of Privy Council, was the Object of your Examination in any Degree explained to you ?

“ Not till I had been there some Time ; for I conceived that we were sent for upon the same Occasion on which I have now the Honour to stand at this Bar.

“ Was it not explained to you before you corrected your Evidence, and before you gave your last Answer.

“ I cannot pretend to say whether it was not suggested to me after I had been examined for some Time by Mr. Stanley, that the Purport of the Examination was not for the Purpose of the Repeal of the Fustian Tax, which I thought it was, but concerning the Irish Business ; upon which I remarked, that that was a Subject of that Magnitude, that I neither considered myself, nor any other Manufacturer, competent to give Evidence or an Opinion on a Question of such Magnitude : Upon which it was remarked, and I think by Mr. Jenkinson, that if we would attend that Evening at the Office of the Clerk of the Privy Council, we should have a fair Copy of our Evidence to peruse and correct :—I did not with my Opinion to be relied on without having a Copy at Home ; which, whether it was sent to me at my Request, or Mr. Jenkinson’s Offer, I cannot say.

“ Did you attend the Committee of Privy Council on an Intimation that Questions relating to the Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland were in Agitation.

“ I did not.

“ How happened you to attend the Committee of Privy Council ?

“ In

"In consequence of a Note shewed to me by Mr. Stanley, on Sunday the 30th of January, which he had received from Mr. Rose, requesting that he would desire the Manufacturers to attend at the Privy Council the next Day at 11 o'Clock. We were Four; Two Manufacturers and Two Printers—Mr. Stanley accompanied us; and, presuming it was on our Business, we went to the Treasury, and were then directed to go to the Council; but not One of the Party had the least Idea that it was on the Irish Business.

"Are you sure that you did not voluntarily, of your own Accord, attend on the Subject of what was going on between England and Ireland?

"I am very confident that I did not, nor Mr. Richardson neither.—We sent, on the 16th of February, some Information to Mr. Jenkinson, which we had received from Manchester, and which is inserted in the Report.—We were only there on the 31st January and 5th February,—we were sent for both Times.

"You having specified certain Exemptions from Taxes and Duties which the Irish enjoy, and which gave them an Advantage in this Manufacture above Great Britain—whether you do not think that the restrictive Terms of being put on equal Terms in *all* *THESE* *Respects* was not a closer Answer, and more just Conclusion upon which the Committee of Privy Council was to form their Judgment, than the more general Terms of *all* *Respects*?

"When we were examined the Second Time before the Committee of Privy Council, and objected to the Word *these*, which Mr. Jenkinson strenuously contended for, we as strenuously contended for the Word *all*, which we then conceived, and do now conceive, applies more strongly to the Interests of this Country than the Word *these*."

The Committee was also moved, That the Minutes of the last Question and Answer of the same Evidence might be read;

And the same was read accordingly, and is as follow:

"Do you mean, by the Declaration, "that a Member of the Privy Council strenuously insisted on the Use of the Word *these*," that any Member of the Privy Council had endeavoured to suggest to you Expressions different from your own Meaning and Intent; or whether it was intended only to prevent your correcting any Expression you had before made use of?

"When

“ When we came to the Committee of Council, on Saturday the 5th of February, Mr. Jenkinson mentioned the Distinction between *all*, and *these*;—upon our giving our Ideas of what we meant by the World *all*, Mr. Jenkinson replied, you do not suppose it possible for Great Britain to impose the same Taxes upon Ireland under which she herself labours; which we readily admitted that she could not, but remarked that unless Great Britain had some Equivalent, the English could not be upon equal Terms with the Irish Manufacturer.”

Then the Witness was asked,

Was that the Evidence you gave before a Committee of this House?

It was.

Was not Mr. Fawkener the Clerk of the Privy Council, whom you attended on the Night of the 31st of January last?

He was.

How long was you with Mr. Fawkener at that Time?

Whilst I read over the Evidence;—how long that took I cannot say.

Were not many Corrections made in your and Mr. Richardson's Evidence at that Time, at your Desire?

There were some, but I do not think there were many.

Had not you and Mr. Fawkener, at that Time, some Discourse on the Words *these Respects*?

Not that I recollect.

Did not you expressly consent, at that time, that the Word *these* should stand Part of your Evidence?

That I am very confident I did not; nor do I recollect its having been mentioned.

Are you sure that the word *these* was not in the Copy of the Evidence which was then read to you?

To that Question I must give the same Answer that I have often done, that I do not remember its ever being Part of my Evidence.

Do you know that any Number of Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade have yet gone from this Country to Ireland?

I know some that have; and though without Property, and

I

not

not of the highest Reputation, they have rendered essential Service to Ireland, and done much injury to England.—The Mr. Ogden alluded to in the Letter which I received from Mr. Brooke, was in 1773 a Servant of mine, at either Six or Eight Shillings a Week, but I am confident not more than Eight; and that Man has been a very principal Means of bringing the Fustian Manufactory to the Perfection it is now of in Ireland, though he has been there but a few Years, I believe not above Three or Four.

Do you know any of Property or Reputation that have gone from this Country to Ireland?

I do not; but I know several that will go, if the Irish Resolutions pass into a Law?

Do you know what are the Prices that Mr. Brooke pays to his Manufacturers, in the several Branches?

I do not.

Do you know whether, on the Whole, they are greater or less than are paid at Manchester?

I should presume less.

Do you know whether the Prices of Labour of Carpenters, Bricklayers, or other Mechanicks, are less in Ireland than in Great Britain?

I do not.

Is not Linen Yarn a more important Article in the Manufacture of Linen, than it is in the Manufacture of any Cotton Goods whatsoever?

Undoubtedly.

Do you know whether Great Britain has or has not a considerable increasing Linen Manufacture?

I do not know enough of the Linen Manufacture of this Country, to answer that Question with any Certainty.

What do you understand by the Capital of a Manufacturer, whether Money only, or do you add to it Buildings and Credit?

Money, and all the Property he is possessed of after all his Debts are paid.

In carrying on his Trade, do not you consider his Buildings and Credit as Part of his Capital?

I consider his Buildings as Part of his Property, and his Credit as a very great Advantage to him.

Do

Do not many Manufacturers trade to a much greater Extent than their Property after their Debts are paid?

I have no Doubt but they do.

Is it in the Power of a Manufacturer to remove his Buildings to another Country, without great Loss, or without affecting his Credit?

There must be some Loss in the Sale of his Buildings certainly;—as to his Credit, if he is a Man of Property, I do not conceive how that can be affected by his Removal elsewhere.

Does not his Credit depend on the Knowledge which his Friends and Neighbours have of him, and on other local Circumstances?

In some Degree it may.

Is there any Part of the Evidence, which is entered as having been given before another Committee of this House, on which you desire to make any Remark, for the particular Information of this Committee?

I was going to remark, that it is stated in the printed Report of the Council, “ That Mr. Richardson and I sent the Day after “ we had been first examined, and desired to correct the former “ Answers,” which I must take upon me to say is a Mistake which I wish to have corrected, as we never sent at all.

Did not you send at that Time a corrected Answer to the last Question that was put to you on the First Day you was examined before the Committee?

We sent a corrected Answer, it is very true—we returned our Evidence, that was the Fact: But it is stated in the Report, that we sent for it; which we did not.

Whether it was not your and Mr. Richardson’s Desire, that the Evidence should stand corrected in the Manner in which you so returned it?

It was, as a Note of ours to Mr. Fawkener will, if it is referred to, explain:—Therefore Mr. Richardson and I were very much surprized to see in the printed Report Two Answers published to the same Question; particularly as the One was an incorrect One, and all our other Answers were published in the corrected State only.

Whether it was not your Wish, that the Evidence, as corrected by you, should be as fair and complete as you could make it?

It certainly was.

Whether you think any of the Circumstances stated by you, in Answer to the Examination by the Counsel at the Bar, as being omitted in the printed Report of the Council, are material towards understanding your Evidence?

I should think that my Evidence, having References to the former Answers, very sufficiently explained itself, at least I understand it in that Light.—I wish to say, that when I mentioned the £.10½ per Cent. I meant to refer to the Expression of “unchecked, undamped,”—&c. &c. understanding it in that Light, it stands right. If others understand it in that Light, I have no other Explanation to give.

Is the Committee to understand you, that the Evidence, as stated in the Report of the Council, appeared to you, and still continues to appear to you, to contain all that is material towards understanding your Opinion on the Subject of the Questions put to you?

It is impossible for me to say what Light other People may understand my Evidence in; but I myself am perfectly convinced that £.10½ per Cent. cannot be, under all Circumstances, a protecting Duty to the Cotton Manufacture of this Country, unless Ireland and England are upon equal Terms in all other Respects.

Do you imagine that will be collected to be your Opinion, from the following Words of your Answer at the Privy Council—“If
“the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty
“of £.10½ per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods
“from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be
“a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption?”

If that Answer was read alone, it would by no Means convey my Meaning.

If you had thought there had been any Circumstances omitted in your Evidence, which rendered it not sufficiently clear or intelligible, would not you have thought it your Duty to supply such Omission; and had not you an Opportunity of doing so when the Evidence was sent to you to be corrected?

Had I conceived that any other Construction could have been possibly put upon it but the One I myself meant, I most certainly should have desired to have corrected it; but I must beg Leave to state, that this Part of my Evidence was never sent to me to correct, nor did I ever see it after I quitted the Council Chamber with Mr. Stanley.

Whether

Whether it ever occurred to you, that the Answer alluded to could be construed to refer to a *Part* of what had preceded, and not to the *Whole*?

I had no Idea but what it referred to the *Whole* of my Evidence.

Do you recollect whether you did not state the Advantages against the English Manufacture to be above double the £10½ per Cent.?

I do not recollect that I did—but if I had, in some Articles of the Fustian Trade, I should not have asserted more than what I can now prove.

Is the Committee then to understand you, that when in your Answer you said, “the Protection of £.10½ would be sufficient,” it was on a Supposition of the Two Countries being likewise on equal Footings in all Respects, with regard to internal Taxes, as well upon other Articles of Consumption as the Cotton Manufacture, and with regard to the Price of Labour, and every Thing else attending the Expence of the Manufacture?

It was.

Is the Committee to understand, that other Answers of yours containing your Opinion of what might or what might not be apprehended from the Competition of Ireland, were also to be understood with a Reference to the antecedent Part of your Examination?

The Witness says he does not understand the Question.

Question repeated.

Then, the Question being objected to,
The Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

Called in again.

Question repeated.

The Witness asks, whether that Question refers to any particular Answer; and if it does, he desires the Answer to be read.

It does not mean to refer to any particular Answer, but to ask in general, whether, as far as you recollect, you did, through the Course of your Examination, in the Answers you gave, keep in your own Mind a Reference as well to the preceding Examination as to the particular Question?

This is, I presume, speaking of the last Examination before the Council—In the last Examination I certainly alluded to the Evidence I gave at my former Examination.

In

In both the Answers you gave at the last Examination, had you the same Reference to the Answers you had given at your former Examination?

In the last Answer I certainly had that Reference; but I must beg Leave to observe, that I had not the most distant Idea that this Examination of mine was to be printed, or that it was to be explained by any Man but Mr. Jenkinson, who I considered as a Gentleman who would have given my Examination that Interpretation that it was fairly entitled to, from knowing a Number of Circumstances which do not appear in the printed Report.

Question repeated.

The former Answer, if I recollect it, refers to Duties and Bounties only in the Cotton Manufacture.

Is the Committee then to understand, that the former Answer does not refer, in all Respects, to that Equality which the latter Answer is supposed to do?

I must beg Leave here to observe, that I had no Opportunity of correcting either of those Answers; nor does it appear to me a Matter of the least Consequence to the Public, whether I had either corrected them, or given them—if the Committee will only take into Consideration what could be the possible Use that could be made of them; for it surely cannot be supposed, that the Opinion of a Fustian Manufacturer is by any Means necessary to justify a Matter of such great Importance as the Establishment of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland—for, if it has any Meaning, it must be Justification for its Object, and not Information, when my Evidence was taken only Forty-eight Hours before Mr. Orde moved the Propositions in the Irish House of Commons.

When you speak of the Opinion of a Fustian Manufacturer, do you mean Opinion on the general Question, or with respect to your own Trade?

To the general Question.

During the whole Period of the Examination before the Privy Council, had you any Knowledge whatever, or any Information or Conjecture, respecting the Eleven Propositions of the Irish Parliament, relative to which you are now giving your Evidence?

Not the most distant Idea.

Now that you have seen those Propositions, and have considered them, do you, on the fullest Deliberation, think that £.10½ per

per Cent. will be a sufficient Protection to the Manufactures of this Country ?

I do not.

In the Conversation with Mr. Fawkener, for the Purpose of correcting your Evidence, was Mr. Richardson present ?

He was.

Was the Evidence read to you and Mr. Richardson, or did you read it yourselves ?

I cannot speak positively to that.

You have stated that you believe great Capitals will remove from this Country to Ireland, if the Propositions pass into a Law—do you believe that skilful Workmen will go with the Capitals ?

I have no Doubt but that they will.

Though the Wages of inferior Workmen may in general be low in Ireland, is it not extremely probable that high Wages would be given to Persons peculiarly skilful, to induce them to remove, and to take Charge of the increasing Manufactures ?

No Doubt but there would.

In speaking of the Removal of Capitals, is it not probable that Parts of Capitals would be removed from particular Houses in Trade ?

I am well authorized in saying that there would be.

May not a Part of a Manufacturer's Capital be removed, without exposing him to the Expence of suffering Loss by his Buildings, and the other Losses you before mentioned ?

Certainly.

In the Fifth Proposition, you will have observed, that when a Duty is laid in this Country on the Manufacture, or the Materials of the Manufacture, that Duty is to be countervailed by a similar Duty upon the Importation of the similar Manufactures into this Country ;—will then the Duty of One Penny per Yard, to be paid on the Importation of Irish manufactured Cotton into this Country, as the countervailing Duty of the One Penny per Yard imposed by the Act of the last Session, be a Compensation for the Manufacture of this Kingdom, so as in that Respect to place the English and Irish Manufacturer on an equal Footing ?

By no Means, for the Irish Manufacturer will only be charged with One Penny per Yard in the English Port, whilst the English Manufacturer, independant of paying the same Sum in the First Stages

Stages of his Manufacture, will, by the Excise Laws, have been subjected to various Restrictions, Embarrassments, Impediments, Risks, and Expences, which the Irish Manufacturer will have been totally exempt from, and which will operate as a Bounty to the Irish Manufacture in the same Degree that it oppresses the English Manufacture.

How long has Mr. Brooke's Manufacture been established in Ireland?

I do not know.

Is it carried on to any considerable Extent?

I presume it is.

Do you know, or believe, that the Cotton Goods are there manufactured cheaper than at Manchester or its Neighbourhood?

If a Judgment may be formed from the Decrease of the Fustian Trade from Great Britain to Ireland within the last Four Years, and of the Increase of the Irish Export Trade, during the same Period, it is very reasonable to infer that the Goods are made considerably cheaper there than in England.

Have you any other Means of forming a Judgment that the Goods are manufactured cheaper there than in England?

They are sold cheaper.

Is that within your own Knowledge?

It is from such Information that I cannot doubt; and if the Committee will give me Leave, I will read an Extract of a Letter from a Manufacturer in the Town of Manchester, which will establish it beyond all Doubt.—It is from Mr. Thomas Smith, dated Manchester, March 30th, 1785, as follows:

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Thomas Smith, of Manchester, to Mr. Thomas Walker; dated from Manchester, 30th of March 1785.

THE Number of Hands employed in the Small Ware Manufacture, I presume, may be Three Thousand, who must soon be compelled to emigrate, if these Propositions take place.—For my own Part, I cannot hesitate a Moment to declare my firm Intentions of going to Ireland, whenever they are confirmed.

About Thirty Years ago, this Kingdom imported from Holland all the Tapes they consumed, commonly called Holland or Dutch Tapes—but a Mr. Cornelius Vansandford, a Native of Holland, emigrated to this Country, and established that Manufactory here; and ever since we have been capable of supplying our own
Markets

Markets with those Articles, and to export considerable Quantities to America. If such Consequences could arise from One Man emigrating, how much more is to be dreaded from a considerable Number ?

So far relates to the Small Ware Business.—With respect to the Irish Manufactures of low priced Fustians, they have made such a progress in those Articles, that I have it from undoubted Authority, they are now selling Half Ell White Jean, or Lining Fustian, from 16s. to 17s. per Piece, of Twenty Yards long, equal in Quality of those selling here at 21s.—the same Proportion in Pillow Fustians, and low priced Linen Back Corderoys.—I have this Day with me a Merchant from America, who has purchased all his low priced Cotton Goods from Ireland, and only purchased from me a few of the higher priced Kind. These are Facts I am ready to substantiate any Way you chuse : And you are at full Liberty to make use of my Name, in Proof of these Assertions, at the Bar of the House of Commons.

Your's, &c.

Tho^s. Smith,

N. B. The Small Ware Manufacture consists of Garters, Bindings, &c. &c.

Then the Counsel and Witnesses were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

K

The

The following are the INVOICES before referred to in
Fol. 52.

(A.)

8 Trusses Derry Yarn, Nos 52 to 67 Bds. per Truss.

454 Bds. or 2,270 Spangles, at 2s. 2½d. - £.253 — 2½

Real Invoice and Last Exchange, £.7 per Cent. 16 11 1

W SR had — — —

Irish Yarn is cheaper Prime Cost Sterling — £.236 9 1½

than any other. Charges, viz. Insurance, at 21s. per Cent. - £.2 9 8

At Londonderry.

Bundling and packing, at 2s. 6d. £.1 — —

Loss in the Wrappers and Ropes — 10 8

Hay, Twine, Cartage and Porterage, 8d. — — — 5 4

Duty 265 Hds. 10lb. at 1s. — 13 5 5

Quayage, Patts, and Landwrs Fees 1 7 ½

Part Entry — — — 6 3

Commission £.2 per Cent. — 5 9 6

22 4 2½

Exc £7 per Cent. — 1 9 1½

20 15 1

Charges at Liverpool.

Entry and Part Certificate 2s. 2d.;

Town's Duty 4s. — £. — 6 2

Landwaiters 2s. Cartage 2s. Por-

terage 2s. 8d. — — — 6 8

Commission — — — 8 —

Freight on 8 Trusses, 12s. — 4 16 —

5 16 10

Charges on Canal between Liverpool and Manchester.

Freight on 8 Trusses, at 2s. 3d. - — 18 —

Cartage — at — 5d. - — 3 4

1 1 4

£.30 2 11

As near £.13 per Cent. as possible.

Truss

[69]

(B.)

Trufs 90 Bundles.

5

450 Spa^s, at 2s. 3d. — £. 50 12 6
Exchange £. 7 per Cent. 3 6 3

At Londonderry.

Sterling — £. 47 6 3

Charges, viz.

Insurance — — — — 9 10

Charges at Derry.

	£.	s.	d.
Bundling and Packing —		2	6
Loss in Wrappers and Ropes —		2	—
Hay, Twine, Cartage, and Portage —		—	8
Duty and Fees —	1	19	—

Exc. £. 7 per Cent. — 2 4 2
— 2 11

2 1 5

2 1 3

At Liverpool.

Entry and Part Certificate, 2s. 2d. ; Town's

Duty 6d. — — — 2 8

Landwaiters 3d. Cart 3d. Porterage 4d. — — 10

Commission — — — 1 —

Freight — — — 12 —

On Canal between Liverpool and Manchester.

Freight — — — — 2 3

Cartage — — — — 5

Sterling — £. 3 10 3

£. 7½ per Cent.

K 2

Lima,

Lunæ, 11^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great-Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded to the further Hearing of Evidence in Support of the Petition of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and others resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of Manchester.

The Counsel was called in.

Mr. THOMAS RICHARDSON called in, and examined.

Was you examined before the Committee of Privy Council?
I was.

Was you previously acquainted with the Object of the Examination?
No.

Upon what Occasion was you in Town when you was examined?

I was deputed by the Town of Manchester and the Neighbourhood, with Mr. Walker, to present a Memorial to the Treasury, praying for a Repeal of the Act of last Session imposing a Duty on bleached and dyed Cottons.

Had you then any Knowledge of the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament being intended to be proposed to that Parliament?
No, not to my recollection.

Was you prepared to speak on the Consequences of such Resolutions to the Manufactures of Manchester?
Certainly not.

Was you present when the Question—"Have the Irish Manufactures any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour," was asked of Mr. Walker before the Committee of Privy Council?
I was.

Did

Did he give the Answer which is stated in the printed Report?

He did.

Do you recollect the Question that follows that Answer being asked Mr. Walker, viz “Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade?”

I do.

Do you remember the very Words of the Answer, that they were as stated in the printed Report?

Perfectly Well.

You will Inform the Committee, when the next Question was put to Mr. Walker, what Answer he gave to it; and does his Answer appear on the Face of the Report?

I do not see his First Answer on the Face of the Report: His First Answer, as near as I can recollect, was this—“I conceive I have answered that Question already by my Answer to the Two preceding Questions.”

Was the Question, so stated by Mr. Walker to have been answered before, put again by the Examiner?

It was.

What Answer did Mr. Walker give to it when so put again?—The Question was this: “If the Irish and British Manufacturers in the Cotton Trade were put on the same Footing with respect to Taxes and Bounties, as well internally as upon Export from One Country to the other, should you have any Reason to apprehend a Competition in the British or Irish Market.”

The Answer, as it is stated in the printed Report, is—“If we were put in *all these Respects*”—I do not recollect that Mr. Walker said, “*all THESE Respects*,” but believe that he said, in “*all Respects*.”

It is said in the Report, that “The Committee think it proper in this Place to inform Your Majesty, that the above Witnesses sent the next Day, and desired to correct their former Answer in the following Manner;”—did you send the next Day, and desire to correct your Answer?

We did not—the Evidence was sent to us by Mr. Fawcener, as I suppose for Correction.

Was you present on the Re-examination on this amended Answer?

I was.

Mr.

Mr. Walker there said, " That if the Cotton Trade of this Country was protected by a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. upon the Importation of Cotton Goods from Ireland into this Country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient Security to our Trade for the Home Consumption ;"—was it then understood to mean that the £.10½ per Cent would be a Protection, if Ireland and England were in all Respects on an equal footing, as he had before said ?

Certainly it was.

How do you know it was so understood by the Examiner ?

When we were sent for a Second Time to the Council, Mr. Jenkinson pointed out this Answer: " If we can in all Respects be put upon equal Terms," &c.—Now, says he, we mean in all ~~these~~ Respects.—To which we replied, We mean in all Respects upon equal Terms.—After we had contended some little Time, Mr. Jenkinson said, You do not imagine we can tax Irish Windows, Soap, or other Articles, which he enumerated, nor take off those of this Country.—To which Mr. Walker replied, I have no such Expectation ; but unless Great Britain could have a full Equivalent, we cannot be on equal Terms.

Did you suppose that this Examination of your's was afterwards to be printed as Evidence in Support of the Irish Resolutions, or that it was for the private Information of the Examiner ?

I did not suppose it was to be printed ; nor did I know for what Purpose we were examined, till the Examination was nearly completed, and then only from something which Mr. Stanley suggested.

Did you ever mean to admit that £.10½ per Cent. was a protecting Duty in the present State of England and Ireland, with respect to Taxes and Labour ?

I did not, nor did I imagine any one else did.

Have you not full Reason to believe, that the direct contrary of the Construction which has since been put on your Answer, namely, that £.10½ per Cent. is a sufficient protecting Duty in the present State of England and Ireland, was known at the Time to be the true Construction by the Examiner ?

I did not think at that Time, situated as England and Ireland now are, that £.10½ per Cent. could be a protecting Duty ; and when Mr. Jenkinson put the Question, I imagined he understood it so too.

Examined

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Whether every Question put to you by the Committee of Privy Council, after it was stated, was not distinctly read to you and Mr. Walker?

They were.

Whether every Answer given by Mr. Walker and you was not read over to you, after it was taken down by the Clerk of the Council?

I believe they were.

Whether you was not permitted to correct the Evidence, if there was any Omission or Mistake, and whether you did not attend the Clerk of the Privy Council on the Evening of the 31st January, for that Purpose?

We did attend that Evening, and made some few Corrections; but in the Course of the Examination either Mr. Jenkinson offered, or Mr. Walker requested, but I think Mr. Jenkinson offered, that we should have the Examination sent to our Lodgings; there we corrected it, and I must own I was very much astonished to see it published with every Answer as we corrected it, except the One with the Word *these* in it.

Whether you and Mr. Walker had not a Conversation in the Clerk's Room, on the Evening 31st January, concerning the Word *these*?

Not to my Knowledge.

Whether you and Mr. Walker did not there expressly consent that the Word *these* should stand Part of the Evidence, and that you would leave it so?

That I am certain we did not; and what strikes me more is, that when the Evidence came the next Day to be corrected, the Word *these* struck us forcibly.

You acknowledge then, that the Word *these* was in the corrected Copy sent you by Mr. Fawcener?

It was then in, but I do not recollect it was part of the Answer given.

Was there in the Copy that you afterwards returned, any other Alteration or Correction than the Second Answer, as it stands in the Report, to the last Question, at the First Examination?

Yes, several.

Did

Did you continue in Town any Time after the Second Examination?

We did some little Time.

Did you ever apply to make any Alteration or Addition to the Answer you gave to those Questions?

No, I never saw the Questions nor Answers after we left the Room.

Were not the Questions and Answers read to you at the Committee of the Privy Council after they were taken down?

I think they were.

Was not, at some Period of the First Day's Examination, the general Purport for which the Committee of Privy Council sat, explained to you and the other Witnesses who attended?

I had been there some Time before I had the least Idea of what we were sent for, nor did I perfectly understand what was the Purpose when I came away.

When Mr. Walker began to state the Amount of the Taxes laid last Year, was it not said to you all in the Committee of Privy Council, that the Committee were not sitting on the Taxes of last Year, but considering of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland?

I do not recollect any such Thing.

The former Question and Answer, at this Mark x, Fol. 73, were read to the Witness.

What were the Alterations to which you allude in that Answer?

The whole stands now as we corrected it.

Is it now your Opinion, that £.10½ per Cent. besides a Duty to countervail the Duty laid on the British Manufacture, would (all Circumstances considered) be a sufficient Protection to the British Manufacturer?

It is not, nor was it then.

By whom was it first suggested to you, that the Committee of Privy Council was sitting on Propositions respecting the Commerce between Great Britain and Ireland?

Mr. Stanley first suggested it to me, that these Questions could not relate to the Tax, but that he imagined it was some Irish Business.

Have

Have you read the printed Report of the Committee of Privy Council ?

I have, as far as relates to ourselves.

Have you read the Introduction—the Preamble to it ?

I have.

Is it there stated, that the Committee sat on the Irish Resolutions ?

I cannot recollect.

Was you apprised, that the Committee sat on the Two specific Questions on which the Committee are stated to have been appointed ?

No, I was not.

Was you apprised, that they sat on the First of those Questions ?

I was not.

Was you, at no Time of your Examination, apprised of those Questions on which the Committee sat ?

After our First Examination, I was told that those Questions related to a Commercial Intercourse with Ireland—I mean the Questions to which we had given our Answers before.

Had you been apprised to what Purport the Questions related, should you have given any other Answers than you have done ?

I conceive I should not.

Had you been apprised of the Eleven Propositions respecting which you are now examined, and that it was the ultimate Object of the Committee of Privy Council to ascertain the Expediency or Inexpediency of those Propositions, would you not have thought it right to inform the Committee of your Opinion respecting them ?

Certainly, in the best Manner I could.

Have you not already so done, to the best of your Judgment ?

To this Committee of the House of Commons I have.

Did you mean to keep back any Thing from the Committee of Privy Council ?

No—Mr. Walker gave the Answers there, and I am sure he gave them to the best of his Knowledge.

Did you not assent to the Answers given by Mr. Walker ; and were not the Answers understood to be your joint Answers ?

I certainly did.

L,

Have

Have you now considered the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament?

In the best Manner I can.

Are you aware that under those Resolutions the Cotton Manufacture of Ireland would be importable into this Country, subject to a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. besides the Addition of a Duty equal to any internal Duty on the Manufacture here?

I think they would.

Do you apprehend that the Cotton Manufacture of this Country would be affected, in Consequence of those Resolutions, in any other Respect than from the Irish Cotton being imported on those Terms?

I do, from the Preference given to the Irish Linens over those of Germany and Russia, which might shut us out from that Trade.

Has there been any considerable Export of Cottons to Germany or Russia?

In the Fustian Trade, in which I am engaged, there has.

Is there any other Respect in which you apprehend the Cotton Manufacture will be affected by these Resolutions?

In this country I think it would—for I think the People would go to Ireland.

Is there still any other Respect in which you think the Cotton Manufacture would be affected by these Resolutions?

I cannot speak to that.

When the last Answer respecting the £.10½ per Cent. was given, mentioned in the Report on the Second Day of your Examination, had not Mr. Walker and you previous Knowledge that the Subject of the Examination related to an Arrangement of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland?

I do not recollect we then knew it.

Are you of Opinion that 1d. per Yard on the Importation of Cotton Goods would be a sufficient countervailing Duty to balance the Inland Duty of 1d. per Yard laid on by the Act of last Session?

By no Means.

Have you lately heard of any Cotton Wool sent from Lancashire into Ireland to be spun into Yarn, and afterwards brought back, and used in the Manufacture of Manchester?

I have—I was told so by a Gentleman a Day or Two ago, who has bought several Packs of Cotton Yarn spun in Ireland.

Was

Was that Yarn, so spun, intended to be manufactured in Manchester?

I cannot say what Use he intended it for—I supposed so.

If that Yarn was intended to be woven in Manchester, is it not a Proof that the Labour of Weaving is cheaper at Manchester than in Ireland?

No—for it might be worked into Twenty Articles not made in Ireland—but it proves the Lowness of Spinning in Ireland, if the Cotton sent from England, subjected to Two Freights, could afterwards be sold cheaper in Lancashire than the Yarn spun there.

Then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Then the Counsel requested that Mr. Thomas Stanley (a Member of this House) would be pleased to be examined on this Subject.

And the said Member consenting thereto, he was examined in his Place accordingly.

MR. THOMAS STANLEY, (a Member, in his Place.)

Was you present at the Committee of Privy Council when Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson were examined by the Board?

I was.

Do you recollect the Two Questions, viz.

“ Have the Irish Manufactures any Advantage over the British in the Price of Labour? ”—

And,

“ Do not you conceive that the Art and Ingenuity of the British Manufacturer will secure to him an Advantage in these Branches of Trade? ”—

being asked of Mr. Walker, and the Answers given to them? Yes.

Do you recollect the next Question being asked; and whether the Answer he gave appears on the Face of the Report?

The Answer which Mr. Walker gave was, That he conceived he had answered that Question in his Two former Answers.

Do you recollect the Question being again put to Mr. Walker, and what his Answer was?

His Answer was, That if we were put in *all Respects*, or, in *all THESE Respects*, but, as far as I can charge my Memory, it was in *all Respects*, upon equal Terms, they should not apprehend a Competition at either Market.

L 2

Mr.

Mr. Walker having first referred his Examiner to his Two former Answers to the former Questions, in which he had enumerated the Difference as to Labour, Provisions, and Taxes between England and Ireland, had you the least Doubt of Mr. Walker's Meaning, conveyed by his Answer given to that Question?

I had no Doubt whatever.

On the subsequent Examination, on the amended Answer, on the 5th February, was you present?

I was?

Do you recollect any Conversation that passed between the Examiner and Mr. Walker, explanatory of the Meaning of Mr. Walker, on that Occasion?

I do.

Will you please to state it?

The Examiner said, "You do not expect we can tax Windows in Ireland, nor Soap, nor Candles, &c." (enumerating several Articles) "or that we can take off those Duties in England."—To which Mr. Walker replied, "Till you can do that, or give us an Equivalent, you cannot put the Manufactures of the Two Countries in all Respects on an equal Footing."

You having been present at all the Intercourse between the Examiners and Mr. Walker, do you believe it possible, that if the Examiner had attended to the Examination, he could reasonably suppose that Mr. Walker meant to admit £10½ per Cent. to be a protecting Duty, notwithstanding those various Differences between England and Ireland, which he had repeatedly enumerated in the Hearing of the Examiner?

I did not think that £10½ per Cent. was, in the Opinion of Mr. Walker, an Equivalent; and after what passed between Mr. Walker and the Examiner, I did not think that the Examiner could be of Opinion that £10½ per Cent. would be an Equivalent.

The Evidence being closed on the Petition now under Consideration,

The Counsel was heard to observe thereon.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c

Mercurii,

Mercurii, 13^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, that Mr. Richardson desired to correct Part of his Evidence, as taken when he was examined before this Committee ;

Mr. RICHARDSON was called in ;

And the following Question and Answer, in his Examination on Monday the 11th of April, was read to the Witnesses, as follows :

* “ When the last Answer respecting the £.10½ per Cent. was given, mentioned in the Report on the Second Day of your Examination, had not Mr. Walker and you previous Knowledge that the Subject of the Examination related to an Arrangement of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland ?

“ I do not recollect we then knew it.”

Explain what you mean, when you wish the Answer to that Question to be corrected?

I understood it to be an Answer to the last Question of the First Examination ; for in putting the Question to and fro I certainly knew, and the former Part of my Evidence says, at the Second Examination, that there was to be a Commercial Regulation with Ireland.—This was first suggested to me by Mr. Stanley, and on the Evening of the 31st January, when we went to Mr. Fawkener’s Chambers to read over the Evidence, I recollect Mr. Walker asking Mr. Fawkener (if it was a Question that Mr. Fawkener could answer with Propriety) whether our Examination did not allude to some Commercial Treaty with Ireland ; to which Mr. Fawkener replied, he did not think he was at Liberty to speak on the Subject, but gave it as his Opi-

* See Fol. 76.

nion, that it was ;—and the next Day, when our Evidence was sent to us to be corrected, I then saw, at the Top of the Evidence, that it related to the Trade with Ireland.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

[The Committee being informed that William Fawkener, Esquire, one of the Clerks of the Privy Council, attended (according to Order) he was called in, and examined.]

WILLIAM FAWKENER, Esquire.

Did you attend a Committee of Privy Council on the 31st January last ?

I did.

Were all the Questions that were put that Day to the Witnesses first written down and approved by the Members of the Committee ?

They were.

Were all the Answers that were given that Day written down, and read to the Witnesses, after they were so taken ?

They were.

[Mr. Fawkener looks at the printed Report of the Privy Council, on the First Day Mr. Walker was examined—and says he has read the last Question and Answer.]

Inform the Committee whether the Answer given to the last Question was the Answer given by the Witnesses, and read to them before they left the Room ?

It was.

Did you not take it down as such yourself ?

I did, and read it to the Gentlemen who were examined.

Did any Thing pass in Conversation on this Subject ?—if there did, inform the Committee.

There did pass some Conversation on this Subject.—The first Answer was “*in all Respects*,” which they were told was much too general, and in Fact no Answer at all.—That the Question related to Taxes internal, as well upon Importation and to Bounties, and that an Answer to that Question was wished in the Affirmative or Negative.

Did they then give the Answer as it is now stated in the Report ?

They did.—I mean that what I have related was the Substance
of

of the Conversation which passed—I do not mean to give every Word.

Can you recollect whether the Witnesses that were then present were told, at any Time during the Examination, that they were examined on the Subject of a Commercial Intercourse with Ireland?

They were told so, to the best of my Recollection, in the Course of their Examination—Upon their getting, in the Course of their Examination, on the Subject of the Tax of the last Year, they were told, that that was not a Point referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade, but that they were under Examination relating to some proposed Commercial Arrangements with Ireland.

Did you see these Witnesses on the Night of the 31st January, by Order of the Committee?

I did.

Was not the Whole of the Evidence then read to them, and were not many Alterations made in it?

The Whole of the Evidence was read, and many Alterations made.

Was there any Conversation at that Time concerning Ireland; and to the best of your Recollection what was it?

The Whole of the Conversation, which lasted a considerable Time, turned upon Ireland; and it seemed to me to be fully understood, that that had been the Object of the Examination in the Morning?

Had you any Conversation at that Time upon the Words “all Respects,” and “all these Respects?”

We had.—The Conversation that had passed in the Morning was repeated and enlarged upon rather; and this Conversation passed not only between Mr. Walker, Mr. Richardson, and myself, but between Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Philips and Mr. Kershaw, who were likewise present, as they all Four came together to my Chambers in the Evening.

Did they then consent that the Word *these* should stand Part of the Evidence?

I really think that they admitted in Terms that it should;—but I am quite sure they acquiesced in it.

Have

Have you in your Possession the Copy of the Evidence which you so read to them ?

I have.

Look at it, and see whether the Word *these* does not stand in that Copy ?

The Witness looks at the Paper, and says,

This is the Paper we had before us in the Evening, and the Word *these* stands in the Answer.

Look over the Paper, and inform the Committee, whether there are not many Corrections which you made at their Desire ?

There are several Corrections taken from their Mouths on the Night of the 31st.

Did not you deliver to the Committee that Evidence as settled with them ?

I rather think, but I am not quite sure, that their amended Answer had been received before the Committee met again.

Did not you, by the Directions of the Committee, send an additional Question in Writing to these Witnesses ?

I did.

Did they not return an Answer to the Question with a Note ?

They did.

Have you that Note in your Possession ?

I have it in my Hand.

Are you sure it is the same you received from Messrs. Walker and Richardson ?

I am as sure as I can be of a Thing of that Nature—It came to me at the Office.

Read it.

The Witness reads it as follows :

“ Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson return their Compliments to Mr. Fawkener, and send him their Answer to the Question transmitted by him to them from the Lords of the Committee of Council. They likewise return him the Copy of their Examination, which they have revised and corrected ; conceiving it to be their Duty, upon a Matter of such great Importance to the real Interests of this Country, as the Adjustment of a Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, to answers all Questions
“ proposed

“ proposed to them with every Degree of Accuracy in their
“ Power.

“ Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson will be much obliged
“ to Mr. Fawkener to return them the said Copy so soon as
“ it is done with.”

“ *Bate's Hotel,*
“ *2d. Feb. 1785*”

“ Question proposed to Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson
“ by Mr. Fawkener, by Direction of the Right Honourable
“ the Lords of the Committee of Council.

“ Q. Whether the Exportation of Cotton Goods, print-
“ ed or otherwise, to other Countries except Ireland, has
“ increased of late, or diminished?

“ A. With respect to the Exportation of Printed Cot-
“ tons and Callicoes, we conceive it may be accurately
“ known, by referring to the Custom House Books; as they
“ are not only entitled to a Drawback of the Duty, but, we
“ are likewise informed, to a Bounty of 2d, per Square
“ Yard, upon Exportation.

“ The Exportation of Fustians, previous to the Year
“ 1763, was not very considerable; since that Time to the
“ First of October last, it has, upon the Whole, kept in-
“ creasing, though not without Fluctuations, notwithstand-
“ ing that we are greatly undersold, and have almost whol-
“ ly lost some Articles for which we not long ago had a con-
“ siderable Demand; but that Art, Ingenuity, and Inven-
“ tion which has hitherto so eminently distinguished our Ma-
“ nufacturers and Workmen had, till that Period, supplied
“ the Deficiency.”

Inform the Committee whether you attended the Committee of
Privy Council on the 5th of February.

I did.

Look at the printed Report of the Evidence then taken.

[The Witness reads it.]

Is the Evidence there correctly taken?

It was read to the Gentlemen examined, and is, I am persuad-
ed, correctly taken.

Did the Witnesses, in the Course of the Two Days Examina-
tion, give any other Answers to any Question put to them, than
what are stated in the printed Report?

None that I understood were to be taken down as Answers.—

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In

In the Course of the Examination a great deal of Conversation passed, but every Question that was asked was admitted to be understood before an Answer was expected to it ; and every Answer was settled and agreed to, and read to the Gentlemen examined before they were dismissed.

Did they ever complain to you that any Thing was omitted ?
Never, that I recollect.

Have you not Reason to know that Messieurs Walker and Richardson were some Time in Town after the last Examination ?

I met them I think about Ten Days or a Fortnight after.

Did they *then*, when you meet them, or at any other Time, desire to make any Alterations in the Evidence taken on the last Day ?

They did not.—It certainly would have been my Duty to communicate it to the Committee of Council if they had.

Had not you Permission from the Committee to send to any of the Witnesses Copies of their Examination, if they applied for it ?

I had.

Look at the Question in Page 37 in the printed Report, beginning, “ If the Irish &c.” and say, whether you recollect that Mr. Walker, when this Question was first put to him, did not reply, That he conceived that Question already answered by his Two preceding Answers to the Two former Questions ?

I perfectly recollect Mr. Walker did not make an immediate Reply to that Question, but I really do not recollect that he answered it in that Manner.—I must here generally observe, that when I saw the Gentlemen examined were getting into Conversation with the Lords of the Council, I did not so exactly attend to what passed as when the Answer was agreed upon, and ready to be taken down.

Whether the Whole of Messieurs Walker and Richardson’s Examination was intended to be sent, or was sent for their Perusal, as well as that of the 31st of January ?

Only that of the 31st of January was sent—if it had been applied for, the rest would have been sent.—I was authorized to do it without troubling the Committee upon it.

Is the Committee then to understand, that the Two Questions on the 5th of February were not sent ?

They certainly were not.

Can

Can you inform the Committee whether the *printed* Report is taken from the Copy sent to Mr. Richardson and Mr. Walker, and which they amended, or from the Copy taken at the Privy Council ?

From the amended Copy.—The Answers to the last Question the First Day are both marked in the printed Report.

Whether the Conversation which passed between you and Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson the Evening of the 31st of January, and their Revision of the Evidence, was in Consequence of their Application ?

I can hardly give an Answer to that Question.—They were told that they were at Liberty to revise and correct their Evidence, and I asked them whether it would be convenient to them to come to me in the Evening for that Purpose.

Had they the same Information, or the same Proposal made to them by you, after the Evidence which they gave on the 5th of February ?

Not that I recollect, I rather think not.

Had you any Conversation on the subject with Mr. Richardson and Mr. Walker, subsequent to the Examination on the 5th of February, relating to the Business at any Time after ?

I had a Conversation about a Fortnight after with Messieurs Walker and Richardson on the Irish Business in the Park, but none on that Day, as they went out of the Room, other Business coming on.

Did it appear to you, that if the Intimation alluded to, which was made to Messieurs Walker and Richardson on the 31st of January, and the Proposal made by you had not been made, that the Evidence of the 31st of January would have remained without Explanation, in the same Manner as that of the 5th of February does ?

It is impossible to answer that Question.

Have you any Reason to think they would have applied to revise the Evidence on that Day ?

I had no more Reason to think so on One Day than another.

When you met them in the Park, was their Conversation on the Subject of the Evidence which had been given by them ?

I think not ; but on the Irish Business in general.

Whether the Two Answers of the 31st of January, both the incorrect, and the corrected One, were both published ?

I obeyed the Directions that I received from the Lords of the
M 2 Committee

Committee of Privy Council.—I understood it to be because it was the great Point to which the Examination was directed.

Whether, in the Second Day's Examination, you recollect Mr. Walker enumerated several Advantages which Ireland would have over this Country, by Taxes on Windows, Excise on Soap, Candles, and other Articles, and Stamps on Bills and Receipts?

Mr. Walker mentioned that frequently, and Mr. Richardson also; and I suppose on that Day, as well as on the First.

Do you recollect the Member of the Council who examined them, saying, "You do not expect we can tax Windows in Ireland, or lay Duties on their Soap, Candles, &c. or that we can take off those Duties in England," by way of Conversation?

I recollect, in general, that it was said that it could not be expected that Labour and Provisions could be made as dear there as here, or as cheap here as there: This passed in Conversation, but I do not recollect the particular Terms in which it passed.

Whether you had any Conversation with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson on the 31st of January, on the Subject of the Commercial Treaty with Ireland, previous to their Examination?

No, I had not.

Were Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson informed, by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, of the Purport of their intended Examination?

I do not recollect they were, previous to their Examination;—indeed I rather think not.

Whether at any Time, during either of their Examinations, the Two Questions referred to the Committee of Council, by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 14th of January, were ever read to them?

They never were read to them.

Whether Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson made any Application to you to be examined by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council?

They never did.

Did you receive any Directions from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, to order the Attendance of Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, previous to the First Examination?

Certainly none.

Can

Can you inform the Committee how Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson came first before the Lords Committee of Privy Council?

I understood by the Desire of Mr. Rose.

Did Mr. Walker or Mr. Richardson, on their coming to the Privy Council, acquaint you that they came in Consequence of such Order?

As well as I recollect, a Message came from the Treasury to say that the Gentlemen from Manchester were attending there, and to desire that I would send for them, when the Lords of the Privy Council were ready.

Did you receive any Directions from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, to write circular Letters, or otherwise to give Notice to the manufacturing and trading Towns of Great Britain, of the Object of their Lordships Enquiry?

I never received any such Directions, nor ever wrote any such Letters.

Does it appear that at any Period of the Examination of Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, that they had received any Intimation from the Lords Committee of Privy Council, or had any Knowledge of the Resolutions proposed a few Days afterwards in the Irish Parliament, respecting a Commercial Arrangement with Great Britain?

Of the specific Resolutions certainly not.

Does it appear that they had any Intimation from the Committee of Privy Council, or Knowledge of the general Purport and Spirit of those Resolutions?

They certainly appeared to me, in the Evening of the 31st of January, fully to understand that some Commercial Adjustment with Ireland was then in Agitation, and that a Part of that Adjustment was to be the Admission of Irish Manufactures into this Country.

When you met Mr. Richardson in the Park a few Days after his Examination, and when the Irish Resolutions were known, whether Mr. Richardson did not say to you, that Labour being so much cheaper in Ireland than in England, and the Value of their Articles consisting Three-fourths in Labour, it was probable, with all the other Advantages of Ireland, that Ireland would immediately supplant us in our own Market?

I really do not recollect that Mr. Richardson used those Words—it is very probable he might, because we argued the whole Matter

Matter as well as we were able to argue it, and probably that was said in the Course of that Argument by Mr. Richardson.

Did you ever understand, between the 5th of February and the Examination of Mr. Walker or Mr. Richardson, before a Committee of this House, that Mr. Walker or Mr. Richardson were dissatisfied with any Part of their Answer stated in the Report of the Lords Committee of Privy Council?

I never heard that they were dissatisfied with any Part of their Answers. I did hear, from Report, that they had held a Language which did not seem to me perfectly to agree with the Answers they had given as stated in that Report; but I took it for granted they had changed their Opinion.

How long after the Examination had you the Conversation with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, in the Park?

Ten Days or a Fortnight;—but I cannot exactly say.

Whether it did not appear to you, from that Conversation of Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, that they then thought that the Irish Propositions would be very dangerous to the Manufactures of Great Britain?

I really think that from their Conversation much Apprehension of Danger did not seem to exist in their Minds.—I remember perfectly, that the last Thing which passed was my asking them, whether they did not, on the Whole, think that the Manufacturers of this Country had more to apprehend from Non-importation Agreements, from protecting Duties, and from the high Bounties, and the great Encouragement which the Irish would certainly give their own Manufactures in case the Propositions were rejected, than from the proposed Adjustment.—I really do not recollect Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson's precise Answer, but their Opinion did not appear to me to be decidedly against it; at least, that is the Impression which the Conversation left on my Mind. That Conversation I have frequently mentioned, long before I had any Idea of being called to this Bar.

Is the Committee to understand, whether, in that Conversation, One of the Parties argued in Favour of the Propositions, and the other against them?

Most assuredly.

Whether Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson did not argue against the Irish Propositions?

They certainly did.

Whether

Whether it appeared to you, from any Part of that Conversation, that Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson conceived that the Opinion which they then delivered was inconsistent with the Evidence they had before given to the Committee of Privy Council?

The Evidence they had given made no Part of the Conversation at all—we talked in general on the Subject.

Is it your Opinion, that Persons may not argue against the Irish Propositions, without much Apprehension in their Minds of Danger from the Consequences of them?

I take it for granted they may.

Whether a Man may not argue for the Irish Propositions, without being thoroughly convinced that they may be very beneficial to this Kingdom?

My Opinion is, that there is nothing that a Man may not argue for or against.

Do you recollect, in your Conversation with Mr. Richardson and Mr. Walker in the Park, whether Mr. Richardson did not argue to you, if Ireland continued unreasonable in her Demands, it would be very easy to bring her to Reason, by following her Example, to enter into Non-importation Agreements, and prevent the Importation of Irish Goods into this Country?

Yes—My Answer was, we should then be at declared War, which was hardly to be wished; to which Mr. Richardson assented.

Whether, from the several Conversations you had with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, you are or are not of Opinion, that their Objection to the Irish Propositions arose, in a great Measure, from their Dislike to the Tax on Fustians?

And the Question being objected to;

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

And the Question was amended as follows:

Whether it did or did not appear to you, from the Conversation you had with Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson, that their Objection to the Irish Propositions proceeded chiefly from the Operation of the Tax on Fustians?

Then the Witness was called in, and the Question, as amended, was put to him.

They seemed to think the Repeal of the Tax on Fustians a very essential Object, and had it much at Heart; but their Objections were on general Grounds.

Did

Did Mr. Walker and Mr. Richardson ever, by any Means, or at any Time, admit that a Repeal of the late Tax on Fustians would take away their Objections to the Irish Resolutions?

The Tax on Fustians was never mentioned in our Conversation, as coupled with the Irish Resolutions.

Then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Veneris, 15^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, that Counsel attended on the Part of the Petition of the Manufacturers and Dealers in British Manufactures of the City of London, and other Cities and Towns of Great Britain, whose Names are thereunder written;

The Counsel (Mr. Pigott) was called in?

And the said Petition was read; Setting forth, That the Petitioners had been informed, that certain Resolutions of the House of Commons of Ireland, relating to the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and that Kingdom, have been lately presented to the House; and that, as the Petitioners are given to understand, that no Alteration will be made in any of those Resolutions, they apprehend that if the said Resolutions are carried into a Law, they will prove highly injurious and prejudicial to the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom, and to the Petitioners in particular: And therefore praying, That they may be heard at the Bar of the House, by themselves and their Counsel, against the said Resolutions passing into a Law.

The Counsel desired of the Committee that he might be permitted to call his Witnesses first, and to observe upon the Evidence afterwards, if he should find it necessary; and, he proposed, in the First Place, to call Witnesses as to the Article of the Manufacture of Paper.

The Counsel being then called upon by the Committee, to state the several Manufactures upon which he meant to offer Evidence to the Committee in Support of this Petition; and also to state the Order in which he intended to produce the Evidence on those several Manufactures;

N

He

He informed the Committee, That he was not sufficiently instructed to answer either of those Questions in the full Extent, but that he could mention some of the Manufactures on which he meant to offer such Evidence, viz.—The Manufactures of Paper—of Leather—of Soap—and of Candles; and that he will first begin with that of Paper—then proceed to Leather—afterwards to Soap—and then to Candles; and that, as soon as he is further instructed, he will immediately inform the Committee.

The Counsel was then asked, Which of the Persons who had signed this Petition was interested in the Manufacture of Paper?

To which he answered, Mr. Marsh, who is one of the Petitioners.

The Counsel then called

Mr. WILLIAM GROSVENOR, Stationer in Cornhill, London.

Will the Irish Propositions, if carried into a Law, in any, and in what Degree, affect the Paper Trade?

They will affect it very materially. The Duties now laid on—

[The Witness appearing to read from a Paper]

The Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

Resolved, That the said Witness, in giving his Evidence to the Committee, is not to refer to any Memorandums, but such as have been made by himself, or under his Direction, of Matters within his own Knowledge.

Then the Counsel and Witness were called in, and the Witness was acquainted therewith.

Then the Question being repeated;

The Witness informed the Committee, that he will give his Evidence without consulting any Minutes.

They will affect it very materially, because the Duties that are laid upon Paper in this Country the Irish are not subject to;—they therefore can greatly undersell us. They pay no Excise Duties upon Paper.

Will

Will the Irish be able to supply the English Market, if these Propositions pass, at a lower Price than the English manufactured Paper costs?

They certainly will.

Why?

The Price of Labour, Provisions, and House Rent, are considerably cheaper there.

Are these all the Reasons?

£.25 per Cent. Duties upon the Paper; though there is a Drawback allowed; yet the Drawback is not so much as £.25 per Cent.

Will these Propositions affect the Trade in Printed Books?

Yes; the Irish can print cheaper than we can—They buy the Paper with the Duty taken off—They also bind them with Leather and Vellum, which pays a very high Duty here, and none in Ireland; this gives them a Superiority in the Market: At present they are prohibited being imported here.

Will the Introduction of Irish Paper, worked into Account Books, and Printed Books, into England, have any Effect, and what, on our Manufactory?

It will have this Effect: If exported from Ireland to America, and other Parts when bound, as we have no Drawback upon Paper when manufactured, they will gain all this Advantage—The Custom House here will not allow the Drawback upon imported Paper when bound—the same when printed upon—The Quantity of course of Paper manufactured here must be considerably lessened—The Demand will not be increased.

Do you know any other Reason, why the Irish could afford Paper Books of Accounts, and Printed Books, on lower Terms than the English?

Several—One is, that the high Duty on Vellum and Leather makes our Books come higher to the Foreign Market.

What Reason have you to think that the Irish can make or procure Paper lower than the English?

From the local Situation and Advantages—Price of Labour—They can export Paper in small Quantities, having recovered the Drawbacks from here, or having made it themselves; whereas, if we export it in small Quantities, the Trouble and Expence of the Drawback amounts to as much as what we receive, the Duties are so high—We often ship Paper to the Quantity of Thirty

or Forty Reams, without attempting to get the Drawback, because of course it would go so much dearer to the Foreign Market We receive about 27s. and often pay 26s. 6d. out of it.

If a Duty equal to the whole Excise should be laid upon Paper, Account Books, and Printed Books, will it sufficiently protect your Trade?

I do not think it will, because the Duty is paid immediately before the Goods come to Market; of course the Paper Maker, employing a larger Capital, charges a higher Price on the Goods — The Drawback is not received till Six Months after, so the Drawback does not amount to so much as the Duty originally paid.

Will these Regulations affect the Export Trade?
They will.

How?

Because they can export from Ireland cheaper than we can from England.

Is it your Opinion, that the Irish will undersell us in other Markets?

Yes, I believe they will.

Do not the Irish now export Paper Books of Account, and Printed Books, to America and the West Indies?

They do.

Will they be able to export those at a lower Rate than the English?

Most certainly, for the Reasons before given.

Do you know of any other ill Effects that these Resolutions will have on the Home Consumption?

They will occasion those Books that are bought in London to be imported from Ireland, as it will be worth our while to send Paper there to be printed and bound.

Are any English fine Rags exported to Ireland?
Yes.

Are there any Orders for Rags now in Town from Ireland?

If they have not given the Orders, they have wrote over to know the Price, and whether they can be supplied with large Quantities.

Can

Can they be supplied from other Countries ?

They can be supplied with coarse Rags from Hamburgh and Ostend ; fine Rags being prohibited to be exported from Holland, and other Parts, they will naturally apply here for them—and there is no Prohibition laid on here, though there is upon Wool. There is also a severe Penalty in Holland, on Persons exporting Rags.—Instead of our exporting Rags, we are obliged to import above One-third of what we manufacture here ; and notwithstanding that, the Mills were in 1782 obliged to lie still above a Month for Want of Rags ; and since that the Paper Makers have all come to a Resolution to leave off the Over-works for a whole Year, in order to reduce the Price ; and they have been obliged to continue that for 1783, 1784, and 1785.

What is meant by Over-work ?

The Demand was so great, that they worked Nine Days to the Week ; and the Rags being so high, they lost Money by the Business—several were ruined. The Irish can afford to give a higher Price for Rags than the English now do, on Account of the Labour, and other Advantages they have.

Do you know, of your own Knowledge, what the Irish Paper Makers pay the Men for the Work ?

I have enquired, and found it was about 8s. a Week ; I was informed by a Person who traded there ; except to the Foreman, whom they had from hence.

What did they pay him ?

I cannot tell ; but they made it worth his while to go over.

Have they then not paid him more than he got here, in order to make it worth his while ?

I think it was worth his while, though they paid the same Wages, as Provisions are cheaper.

What do the Paper Makers here pay the common Workmen per Week, for Six Days in the Week ?

From 10s. to 12s. per Week, in Kent, the principal County for Paper.

Must not the Irish pay much more for the Rags than the English do, if they import them from this Country ?

I imagine not ; 1s. per Hundred would give the Turn of the Scale to any Rag Merchant.

Do you know the Expence of Freight, Insurance, and Commission from England to Ireland ?

Not exactly, I know that the Freight and Insurance are very low.
Might

Might not the Expence of Freight, Insurance, and Commission, be charged on all Rags which go from hence to Ireland ?

The Expence of Freight certainly must. In Summer Time they do not insure, which is the Time they want the Rags ; and as to Commission, they can buy them of the Rag Merchants themselves, without paying any Commission.

Have you not said, that great Quantities of Paper are exported from hence to Ireland, for the Purpose of Printing ; and that there are now great Commissions for it ?

No, I do not recollect I did.

Have not you said, that it will be worth our while to export Paper to Ireland, for the Purpose of Printing ?

I think it will, when the Prohibition of importing Books is taken off, when printed.

If it is worth our while to export Paper to Ireland, might it not be, because Paper is cheaper in England than in Ireland ; or that they do not make a sufficient Quantity for their Use ?

At present the Irish do not make a sufficient Quantity for their Use. All the Paper we print here pays a high Duty, which is taken off on being exported to Ireland ; and if printed and bound there, we can export cheaper from Ireland to America than from London.

Do you understand that all Books from Ireland are prohibited to be imported here ; or whether it is confined to such Books as where there is a Copy Right ?

I understand that all Books are prohibited to be imported here.

When you talk of Books being prohibited from being imported here, do not you mean, that they are under Duties high enough to operate in general as a Prohibition ?

I meant that, but I meant more than that—that they were prohibited by Act of Parliament.

Do you know what the Duty is on Books bound and unbound, from Ireland ?

About £.10 per Cent.

Do you know that the Duty on Books bound is 19s. 3d. per Cwt. and on Books unbound 8s. 9d. per Cwt. except as to Books first composed and printed here ?

The Question being objected to ;

The Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ;

The Witness was asked, When you speak of Books being in general

general prohibited, do you speak of Books first composed and printed here, and re-printed in Ireland?

I mean that they are prohibited—All English Books printed here, and re-printed in Ireland, cannot be re-imported into England.

Do you mean that they are always prohibited, or only for a certain Time specified in an Act of Parliament?

I cannot speak to that.

Whether, supposing the Duties on unbound Books imported into Great Britain from Ireland, being at present 8s. 9d. per Cwt. the Trade will suffer by the Duty being reduced to 2s. 1d. per Cwt.?

Certainly it will.

Do you mean by that, that a larger Quantity will be imported from Ireland into Great Britain than at present?

Yes—and of course will hurt the Manufactures of Paper Makers and Printers, and if bound, of Book Binders and Leather Dressers, which Trades employ a great Number of Hands.

Do you know any means by which the Importation of Irish printed Books and Irish Paper into this Kingdom can be increased, without a proportional Decrease of the same Articles of British Produce and Manufacture.

I do not see how it is possible—the more imported, the less must be made here.

Do you know whether the Introduction of Irish Paper is prevented by positive Prohibition, or by Prohibitory Duties?

It pays the same Duty as from Holland, which is not a prohibitory Duty.

Is it so far an operating Duty as to prevent the Importation in any considerable Quantity?

It has not been tried yet—there has been no considerable Quantity as yet to import from Ireland.

Do you know that, under One of the Irish Propositions, upon Importation of Goods of the Irish Manufacture, a Duty is to be paid to countervail the Duty paid here to the Excise upon Paper?

Yes, I observe so.

Will the payment of that Duty on the landing of that Paper in Great Britain, being the same Sum as is originally paid by the Manufacturer

Manufacturer here, be equivalent in its Effect to the Duty paid here in Advance some Months before ?

Not quite, I think.

At what Period of the Manufacture is the Excise Duty paid here ?

As soon as finished.

Is then the Manufacturer in England, who is obliged to advance the Duties imposed on finishing the Paper, upon the same Terms with the Irish Merchant, who does not pay till he comes into the British Market ?

Certainly not—the Irish has greatly the Advantage ; for the English Paper producing a Duty of £.75,000 per Annum, there must be a Profit on that Capital so advanced, and the Irish export to England, without any Duty, all that they make themselves, and they have given a Bounty for its Encouragement.

Considering the Advantage you last mentioned, together with the other Advantages you before mentioned, will $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per Ream upon Irish Printing Paper imported be a protecting Duty to the Manufacturer of Printing Paper in this Kingdom ?

I do not think it will.

Considering the several Advantages, will $\text{£}.10\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. ad valorem on Irish Writing Paper imported into this Kingdom, be a protecting Duty to that Manufacture ?

No, it will not ; there is more than that Difference.

Have you any thing to state respecting Stained Paper ?

The Stained has the Drawback on the Staining of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per Yard ; but no Drawback when shipped on the Paper, though it pays $3s. 5d.$ per Ream Duty—so that the Irish can greatly undersell us in that Article.

Do you mean in Foreign Markets ?

In Foreign Markets, and this Market—They smuggle it in at present at Liverpool and other Places.

Are you aware that the Irish have at present the same Advantages of the Foreign Market which they will have if the Irish Propositions pass into a Law ?

They certainly have not.

In what Respect will they have any Advantage in the Foreign Market ?

If they make the Elephant Paper themselves, they will save $3s. 5d.$ per Ream Duty.

Cannot

Cannot they do that now ?

If our English Rags are not prohibited to be exported they cannot at present.

Are the English Rags prohibited now ?

They are not; but they ought to be, as Wool is.

Are you aware, that the Irish will have no new Advantage in the Foreign Market, if these Resolutions pass into a Law ?

I think they will; as I before stated, they will save the 3s. 5d. Duty.

Whether, at the last Regulation of the Duties on Paper, the Duties on Foreign Paper were not considerably increased ?

They were increased, not very considerably.

Whether you think, upon the Whole, that the Consumption of Foreign Paper in Great Britain has increased or diminished since the late Duties ?

I believe much about the same—I do not think it has increased.

Do you not think that any Diminution upon the Duty on Foreign Paper would be the Cause of a great additional Consumption of Foreign Paper in Great Britain ?

It would cause more to be imported.

Do not you understand, that at present the Duties on Irish Paper are the same in general as those on Foreign Paper ?

I believe they are.

Whether the present Excise Duties on Paper are not laid variously on the different Sorts of Paper, according to the Size of the Paper, and Denomination ?

It is so.

Whether you know if the Irish Paper Manufacturers manufacture their Paper on the same Sizes, and according to the same Denomination, as the British Paper is manufactured ?

All that I have seen were so; they have their Moulds from England, and go under the same Denomination.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Mr. THOMAS BOWLES was called for, in order that he might speak to the Article of Paper.

And the Witness not appearing,
The Counsel was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel was again called in, and informed, That the Committee expected that the Witnesses should attend, that they might be ready to come in when called for; and that the Evidence on each Head of Manufacture should be pursued till it was finished.

The Counsel informed the Committee, That he should next proceed to the Head of the Leather Trade.

Mr. WILLIAM WITHERS, Sadler, in Fenchurch Street, called in, and examined.

Do you apprehend that the Irish Propositions, if passed into a Law, would have any Effect on your Trade?

I do apprehend that they will be very injurious to my Trade.

For what Reasons?

I understand the Irish are exempt from the Excise Duties, and they do not labour under the heavy Burthen of Taxes we do in this Country. I believe Labour to be much cheaper, and the Expence of Living much less, which I conceive to be a natural Consequence of their paying less Taxes than we do.

Do you purchase Tanned Hides in your Trade?

A considerable Quantity.

Do you apprehend that Ireland will, in consequence of the Propositions, have any Advantage over your Trade?

Very materially.—Raw Hides are at present imported into Great Britain from Ireland, paying no Duty, or a very small One; and I conceive that the Irish will find it for their Interest to manufacture those Hides into Leather, and that the Hides so manufactured will be brought into this Country, and not only brought in in that State, but be made into Wrought Leather, such as Shoes, Saddles, Harness, &c.

What Leather can now be imported from Ireland?

I speak now from Officers of the Customs, whom I have conversed with, and am informed, that Wrought Leather is totally prohibited

hibited by one Act of Parliament, and by another there is an Exemption for Ireland, but under a Duty that I conceive to be virtually a Prohibition—by the Report from the Commissioners of the Customs, I see £.77 per Cent. ; but these Officers of the Customs told me, that there was no Instance of Wrought Leather being imported from Ireland, but in very small Quantities, and that only for private Use.

Are you apprised what Duty will take place on Leather imported from Ireland, in Consequence of the Irish Propositions ?

I cannot say I know exactly—I have been informed £.10 per Cent. or £.10½.

If Leather is allowed to be imported from Ireland on the Payment of a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. will that prevent Ireland from having an Advantage in the Market ?

It will not prevent Ireland from having an Advantage in this Market.

Is not Wrought Leather One of the natural Manufactures of Ireland ?

Wrought Leather is manufactured in Ireland.

Do you know any Article of the British Manufacture that will be more immediately endangered by these Propositions than that of Leather ?

That is too extensive a Question for me to answer—I know they will injure my own Trade.

Is there any Duty imposed on the Exportation of Bark from England to Ireland ?

Bark, I believe, may be exported to any Part of the World Duty-free.

Will the Expence of exporting Bark from England to Ireland be so great as to countervail the Advantage which Ireland has over England, with respect to the Exemption from Excise Duties, and other Taxes ?

Certainly not.

Will not the Payment of the Excise Duties on the Importation of the Article from any other Country give the Importer an Advantage over the Person who pays the Excise Duty at Home in an earlier Stage of the Manufacture ?

It certainly will.—The Excise Duty is paid upon the Hide before it is cut—before it can be made into Shoes, Saddles, &c. there is a considerable Waste, and the Interest of the Money is a Consideration.

Have you made any Calculation, or can you give the Committee an Idea, what those Circumstances will amount to—It is meant, between the Excise Duty in the Stage of the Manufacture you have described, and in that which will correspond with the Condition of Wrought Leather when imported from any other Country?

I have made no such Calculation.

Independent, then, of the Price of Labour, or the State of the Taxes in either Country, do you think that a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. added to a Countervailing Duty, equal to the internal Excise Duties payable on the Importation of Wrought Leather, would be sufficient Protection to the Home Manufacturer?

I have made no Calculation—I conceive that £.10½ per Cent. Duty, together with a Duty equivalent to the Excise Duty paid here, paid on the Importation of Wrought Leather from Ireland, would be barely an Equivalent.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Whether Bark is not a necessary Article in Tanning of Leather?

Undoubtedly.

Have the Irish any Quantity of Bark?

I believe no great Quantity—I know they import Bark from this Country.

Do you not know that they import great Quantities from this Country, almost the Whole they use?

I believe they import a great deal.

Do you think that the Irish can import Bark from hence, and tan their Hides with it, and send such in the State of Leather to this Country, so as to afford the same at a less Price than we can tan it here?

I am certain they can—I have no Doubt of it.

Do you know the Price of Leather in Ireland?

I cannot say I know it exactly—I know they abound in Raw Hides, and have every Material but the Bark, and the Bark they can have from this Country, with the Expence of Freight only, which I believe to be small.

What is the Expence of Freight, Commission, and Insurance of any heavy Material from Great Britain to Ireland—How have you made that Calculation?

I do

I do not know what it is—I believe, in Time of Peace, very moderate, but I cannot say what particularly.

If it is £.5 per Cent. must not that be added to the Price of the Leather?

Undoubtedly.

Upon what Grounds do you say that the Irish, all Circumstances considered, can manufacture Leather cheaper than we can in Great Britain?

I form that Opinion from their abounding in Raw Hides, having a much greater Quantity than there is in this Country—The Price of every necessary Article of Life I conceive to be much cheaper there; consequently, I am led to believe that Labour is much cheaper there—I have before said, that we pay an Excise, which I apprehend they do not; that we labour under heavy Taxes, which bear no Proportion to the Irish Taxes.

Are not Raw Hides allowed to be imported into this Country Duty-free?

They are; Duty-free, or under very small Duties.

Is not the Charge on Freight on Raw Hides nearly the same as on Tanned Hides.

I suppose it is.

Can you say what is the Price of Labour to Persons employed in the Tanning Business in Ireland?

I cannot.

Can you say that the Price of Labour in all mechanic Trades in Ireland is not as great as in Great Britain?

I believe the contrary.

Have you any Reason to believe it, except those Allegations you have before stated?

No other.

You have said that £.10½ per Cent. Duty, added to an Equivalent for the Excise Duties, would be a bare Equivalent for the Leather Manufactures of this Country;—if there is added to that what you have stated to be the Charge of the Freight of Bark to Ireland, will not that altogether be a sufficient Equivalent?

I have said that I have made no Calculation, and I am led to believe not.

Is not Allum a necessary Ingredient in bringing some Sorts of Leather to Perfection?

In some Sorts it is.

Do

Do not the Irish import their Allum from this Country ?

I do not know.

Is not Oil a necessary Ingredient in bringing to Perfection some Sorts of Leather ?

Oil is used in currying Leather.

Is Oil cheaper in Ireland than in Great Britain, do you know ?

I do not know.

Is not Salt also an Ingredient in bringing some Sorts of Leather to Perfection ?

I believe Salt is used in making some Sorts of Leather, but I believe in no great Quantities.

Do not the Irish import from Great Britain, as well as from other Countries, great Quantities of Salt ?

I believe they do.

Do you think that the Irish Manufacturers in Leather, such as Sadlers and Shoemakers, are arrived at the Perfection which is possessed by Persons in the same Trades in Great Britain ?

I believe they have not arrived at that Perfection—but there is no natural Impediment; they may arrive at the same Perfection, and in a short Space of Time :—But in some Articles they have nearly as good Artists as there are in Great Britain.

Do you know the Difference of the Price of Bark in Ireland and England ?

No.

Can you say that the Price of Bark in Ireland is not double the Price in England ?

I can say I have every Reason to believe it is not.

Can you tell what the Proportion in the Tanning of Leather of the Charge of the Bark is to the Price of the Raw Hide ?

I cannot tell.

Can you tell what Proportion the Price of the Oil, Salt, and Allum bear to the Price of the Raw Hide ?

I cannot; nor do I conceive that any One can answer that, but a Tanner—I am not sufficiently conversant with the Manufacture of Leather in that State.

Do you know whether the Expence of Freight, and of Land and Water Carriage of Bark, operates also in England, in many Instances, in the Leather Manufacture ?

I am pretty certain it does.

Can

Can you say what is the Excise Duty paid on Leather here, on the general Articles ?

I understand it to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ l. per pound.

Can you form any Estimate of the Value of Dressed Leather per Pound, after having paid the Duty, and previous to applying it to different Manufactures, taking the Average on a general Estimate ?

I cannot answer it.

Will not the grazing and victualling Trade of Ireland give to her Manufactures great Advantages towards establishing the Leather Trade, supposing her to have the British Market open, and to have acquired Capitals ?

It will undoubtedly give her very great Advantages.

The Trade in manufactured Leather being at present protected by a Duty of £.77 per Cent. supposing the Reduction of that Duty to £.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. to have the Effect of opening the British Market to the Irish Manufacture of Leather, are you of Opinion that the increased Importation of Irish manufactured Leather into this Kingdom, will occasion a proportional Diminution of the British Manufacture ?

It undoubtedly will.

Must not the Charge of Freight from Great Britain to Ireland be always added to the Cost of the Bark carried from Great Britain to Ireland ?

It must undoubtedly ; but the other Advantages which Ireland has over Great Britain, and which I have before enumerated, are equivalent, and considerably more.

You have said that, the Raw Materials and Labour being cheaper in Ireland than in England, £.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. exclusive of the Excise Duties, will be barely an Equivalent ;—are you of Opinion, that there is Reason to apprehend, that under such a System the Irish Manufacturer would gradually supplant the British Manufacturer, in any considerable Proportion of his Trade, within the British Market ?

I conceive the British Manufacturer has not much to apprehend.

By £.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. being considered by you as barely an Equivalent when added to the Excise Duty, do you include in your Calculation all the several Advantages you have stated from the grazing and victualling Trade of Ireland ; the Exemption from

from the principal Taxes paid in Great Britain ; the Difference you suppose to be in the Price of Labour ; and the Payment of the countervailing English Excise Duty, which is not to take place, as in England, in the early Stage of the Manufacture, but on the Importation of the Article into the Market ?

I said before, when I answered the Question, that I had made no Calculation, that I had not sufficiently weighed it, and that I spoke as my Mind suggested to me at the Moment : I appeal to the Candour of the Committee, and believe that every One that heard me did not understand me in that Manner—and that I was led to believe so at the Moment.

Are you then able to give any more particular Answer to the last Question, than you have given ?

[Last Question and Answer read.]

It is now placed in a much stronger Light ; and if I had time to consider, I am doubtful whether I should have given the same Answer to that Question—I cannot speak decidedly.

Upon Payment of what you understood to be the countervailing Duty, do you not mean that $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. on manufactured Leather is to be paid on the Importation thereof into Great Britain, exclusive of the Duties which are laid on particular Articles ?

And the Question being objected to ;

The Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ;

The Witness says, That he deals entirely in Saddles.

Can you say, generally speaking, what Proportion the Leather which pays a Duty bears in Weight to the Leather which is worked up into a Saddle ; and how much it is diminished in the Course of completing that Manufacture ?

There is a very considerable Loss, by the Cutting, &c. but I cannot say how much.

Supposing, then, all other Circumstances equalized, would not the Irish Sadler, in paying his countervailing Duty upon the manufactured Article, have a Gain proportionable to the Duty upon the Weight, which is lost in the British Manufacture ?

Undoubtedly the proportionable Loss on the Waste would be a considerable Gain to the Irish Manufacturer.—There would be a material Difference on paying the Duty on the Hide before it is manufactured, to that of paying it on the Articles made up of Saddles or Shoes.—The Advantage must be considerable to the
Manufacturer,

Manufacturer, if it is paid afterwards, than what it would be if it was paid in the First Instance.

Do you know whether there are other Manufactures in Leather in which the Waste is equal to, or greater than the Waste in the Saddle Manufacture?

There are many others, in which the Waste is very considerable—whether it is more or less I cannot say.

Would not the same Advantage operate proportionably to each of those?

Certainly.

Do you know whether Ireland has yet attained any Degree of Perfection in the Manufacture either of Saddles, Gloves, or Shoes.

They have arrived at a great Perfection in some Articles, nearly equal to us, if not quite.

Would not manufactured Leather be imported nearly as cheap, or cheaper, than the Raw Hides, as to the Expence of Freight from Ireland?

I do not know what the Freight is.

Do not you know, or have you never heard, that the Tanning of Leather in Ireland is equal in Quality to what is tanned in Great Britain?

I believe not at present—I have Reason to suppose that it will;—when the Demand is great, they will pay great Attention to the Manufacture.

Can you tell the Committee what is the superadded Value to £.100 worth of Raw Hides imported from Ireland, when manufactured into Saddles, and exposed to sale in the Shop?

I cannot answer that Question.

What Proportion of the Excise paid on the Manufacture do you draw back on Exportation?

We draw back the Whole; but the Expences at the Custom House are so great, with the additional Stamp Duties recently imposed, that I believe there is not more than One Third of Wrought Leather entered for a Drawback. The Quantity exported must be so considerable in One Entry, that few Merchants ship so large an Article that the Drawback should be an Object.

Supposing the whole Expence at the Custom House to be abolished, would the Drawback received be then equal to the Whole of the Excise Duty paid?

I conceive it would.

P

You

You having stated that there was considerable Waste in the manufacturing of an Article on which you have paid the Duty, would the Drawback, exclusive of all the Expences, compensate for the Duty so paid?

I did not advert to the Waste at the Time I spoke before—I before said, I understood the Expence to be $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.; I did not speak positively. The Drawback is $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. If we draw back the same, the Waste will be a Loss to the Manufacturer.

Suppose the Irish Manufacturer to pay the same Duty of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. will he not have the Advantage over the English Manufacturer of all that he has paid the Duty for that is wasted?

If the duty is paid on Wrought Leather, he will not only derive an Advantage from paying it in that State, owing to the Waste, but the Interest of his Money. There must be a greater Advantage to the Manufacturer in paying the Duty on the Sale of his Manufacture than on the Hides.

Whether in your Trade the Waste is very considerable?
It is.

Whether, in speaking of the countervailing Duty to be paid by the Irish Importers of manufactured Leather, you understood the Duty intended to be $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. Weight?

I apprehend it must be considerably more, or it is not an Equivalent, owing to the Waste before mentioned; and One Circumstance that I have not mentioned strikes me more strongly—the Duty is paid on the Hide before it is curried.—The Diminution of the Hide to a proper Consistency of Leather must be a greater Loss and Waste than in any other Part of the Manufacture. I am informed the Excise Laws were, some Time since, not carried into Execution in Scotland in the same Manner as they were in England. In Scotland the Tanner cut the Offal, and paid the Duty on the Prime Part of the Skin, so diminished—the English Manufacturer paying it on the whole Hide in the Rough. Hides were then brought from Scotland in a Quantity so as to affect the Dealer in that Article here very considerably, but it is now otherwise.—I mean to say, that, owing to that Circumstance, the English Manufacturer was underfold by the Scotch.

Do you apprehend that the Reason that the English Manufacturer is not now underfold by the Scotch is, that the Excise Laws are put into Execution in Scotland in the same Manner as in England?

Yes.

Whether

Whether, under all Circumstances, if the Duties were equal between Great Britain and Ireland, the Irish would not be able to undersell you in the Articles in which you trade?

If the Duties were equal, the Price of Labour, I conceive, is not.

Question repeated.

I do not think we should have much to fear—I conceive the Irish at present work much cheaper, but when the Manufactures flourish, and the Expences are equally great, which I apprehend would not be a great while first, that the English Manufacturer would not have much to apprehend, if the Duties were the same—undoubtedly at present it would be otherwise.

Whether, if the Duties on Importation and Exportation between Great Britain and Ireland were exactly equal, the Irish do not manufacture at so much easier a Rate, that they would not be able to undersell you in those Articles in which you deal?

They would, most undoubtedly.

Whether your principal Trade does not consist in exporting Saddles, and other Horse Furniture, and Harness, to North America and the West Indies?

That is my principal Trade, I have little other.

Whether your Father before you did not carry on the Trade?

Yes, and I succeeded to him in the same Line, and it has existed near Fifty Years.

Whether the Irish have yet exported to North America or the West Indies Saddles or Horse Furniture which have borne any Competition with the British?

They certainly have not exported any Quantity that has arrived to any Competition with the British—but an Infant Manufacture must have some Time before it can arrive at any great Perfection or Extent—The Irish are under One Disadvantage—I believe the Merchant in Ireland is poor; it must be some Time before he can acquire by his Trade a sufficient Capital to vie with the English Manufacturer.

Whether the Saddlery of Ireland is equally good with that of England, when compared in its Price?

I have before said, that the Manufacture of Leather is not arrived at the Perfection it is in this Country, consequently the Articles made of that Leather cannot be equal in Quality—but, the Price considered, I very much doubt whether in the American

Market we should have a Preference.—The Articles of that Kind exported to America are in general of an ordinary Quality.

Whether, to your Knowledge, Saddlery is not exported from Great Britain to Ireland?

I do not know that it is, unless in very small Quantities, for the private Use of Individuals.

When the Leather Manufactory of Ireland is sufficiently advanced for the Manufacturer there to export, whether you are not of Opinion that the Irish will be more likely to meet you in a Foreign Market than in the Home Market, paying a Duty here of £.10½ per Cent. and meeting there on an Equality?

There are Advantages to the Irish, which perhaps may not be equivalent, but which are considerable, and which would lead him to give a Preference to the British Market.—It is usual in almost every Factorage Business for the Factor to advance Money to the Manufacturer—The Irish Manufacturer would find a Factor or Warehouse Man here, who would receive his Goods, and advance Money upon them, though they were not sold—the sending them to a Foreign Market is uncertain—they might lie in the British Factor's House under that Loan till he had an Opportunity to sell them, and I have no Doubt but that this would weigh very much with the Irish Manufacturer.

What Kind of Oil is used in the Preparation of Leather?

I do not understand the Manufacture of Leather—I believe it is Train Oil, but do not know.

Whether you can exactly ascertain what has been paid in Duties in the Manufacture of any given Quantity of Goods in the Trade—in One Saddle for Example?

The Duty is paid on the Raw Hide—it passes through the Hands of the Tanner and the Currier before it comes to our Hands, and I cannot ascertain the Duty on any particular Species of Goods.

Do you think it would be possible to lay such a Duty on the Importation of an Irish Saddle, as would exactly countervail the Duties which have been paid on an English Saddle of the same Quality, through the different Stages of its Manufacture?

I think it possible to lay such a Duty, but very difficult to ascertain what that Duty should be.

In order to ascertain it, do you think that the Duty upon the Leather actually in the Saddle should be taken into Consideration,
or

or the Duties *on all* the Leather which has been used in the making of it?

On *all* the Leather which has been used in the making of it, —I have before said it is paid by Weight on the Hide.—It is so much charged in the manufacturing, drying, and cutting to waste, that to lay a Duty on the Leather *in* the Saddle would not be an Equivalent.

Is the Waste of Leather equal in Different Saddles, of different Sizes, Shapes, and Qualities?

Certainly not, there is a very great Difference.

By what Means then do you imagine the Duties can be laid on these Articles imported from Ireland, so as exactly to countervail the Inland Duties payable in this Country?

I have before said I conceive it possible, but difficult.—It is practicable to ascertain the particular Sort of Saddles and Sizes; but I should suppose a Duty might be laid that would be equivalent, but it would be very difficult.

Whether the Waste in all Saddles of equal Sizes, though of different Shapes and Qualities, is equal?

Not of different Shapes and Qualities.

Is the Committee to understand, that in order to render this Duty equal, there must be separate Classes and Descriptions of Saddles, of all the different Shapes, Sizes, and Qualities of which any Saddles are made in Great Britain?

I should think it would be necessary.

Whether you consider that a greater Capital is necessary for carrying on the Business for the British Market or the Foreign Market?

A much greater Capital is necessary for the Foreign Market.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr.

Mr. THOMAS BELL, Warehouse Man, in Cateaton Street, London, called in, and examined.

And informs the Committee, that he keeps a Warehouse, and is a Factor of Goods for the Merchant.

The Counsel informs the Committee, that he calls this Witness to speak to the Article of Leather; and that he is a large Exporter of Shoes,

Are you an Exporter of Shoes?

I sell Shoes to the Merchant, who exports them.

Where do you purchase or procure the Shoes you sell?

They are chiefly consigned from Scotland—I have a great many also from Staffordshire.

Is the Business of Shoemaking carried on to any great Extent in Scotland?

It is now carried on to a very great Extent in Scotland.

Is it for Home Consumption, or chiefly for Exportation?

I have said that I deal only in Exportation, and therefore it is for Exportation I have the Goods.

What Number of People do you apprehend to be employed in Scotland in this Manufacture?

I cannot pretend to speak as to the Number of People employed in Scotland in this Manufacture exactly.—It is a Manufacture which was hardly known in Scotland Twenty Years ago, in the Way that I now deal in it; I mean for Exportation, through the Medium of the London Market.—Some Persons thought there would be a great Advantage in manufacturing Shoes in Scotland, where the Wages were much cheaper, if they with these Goods could supply the London Merchant—for this Purpose they came up to London themselves about the Time I mentioned, and learnt the Manufacture here on the London Principle.—They returned to Scotland, carrying with them a few intelligent Persons in the Business, and they commenced the Manufacture in different Towns there—First in Dundee; there are employed there fully Eight Hundred or One Thousand People in this Manufacture now.—Perth also employs an equal Number.—Montrose, and all the Towns from thence to Aberdeen, have a great Number of these Manufacturers.—In the West Country there are also great Numbers.—At Glasgow, and thereabouts, a very great Number.

ber.—I therefore conclude there cannot be so few as Twenty or Thirty thousand always employed in that Manufacture in Scotland.

From whence was this Manufacture carried into Scotland ?
I think I have answered that in my last Answer.

What was the principal Cause of its Removal into Scotland ?
The Occasion was a View of Interest.

What were the Advantages the Scotch had in carrying on this Manufacture ?

They were able, from the Cheapness of Provisions in that Country, and the consequent low Price of Labour, to manufacture the Article sufficiently cheap to bear all the Expences of Carriage up to London, and to undersell the London, or even the English Manufacturer.

Is this Business increasing, or on the Decline in Scotland ?
I rather think it is upon the Decline.

To what do you attribute that Decline ?

There are various Causes, no Doubt.—In the First Place, there are but few Orders now in London for this Manufacture; and besides that, a considerable Alteration has taken place in it, owing to an Act of last Session, I believe, which separated the Tanner from the Shoemaker, and this has naturally given a different Turn to the Manufacture.

Have you read or considered the Irish Propositions ?

I have read them a few Days ago, which I believe is the Reason of my being here this Day; for I understand that Ireland will be upon a much preferable Footing even to Scotland, and that the Success of this Manufacture in Scotland may be expected at least to be equalled by the Irish. Under this Apprehension, I have asked several People about it, but I have had no Information to make my Mind easy on the Subject.

Do you then apprehend that the Irish Propositions will hasten the Decline of this Manufacture in Scotland ?

Without Doubt I apprehend it will do so.

Do you apprehend that Shoes are at present prohibited to be imported from Ireland into England ?

I understand that Shoes may be imported from Ireland into England, but under such a Duty as affords no room to apprehend any Thing from the Importation of them.

What

What is that Duty?

I believe £.77 per Cent. ad valorem.

If that Duty was repealed, do you apprehend any Danger to the Trade?

Certain Destruction.

Are you of Opinion that a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. added to the Duty to countervail the internal Duty, would secure the Manufactures of this Country against the Consequences of a Competition with Ireland?

Perhaps if that Duty could be laid exactly, to be paid as upon the Tanned Hide here, with an Addition of £.10½ per Cent. it might for a while protect our Manufactures from being materially injured.

Is the Committee to understand by that Answer, that it is your Opinion, that £.10½ per Cent. with the countervailing Duty, would be no Security for any Length of Time to the Manufactures of this Country?

I should apprehend, that when the Manufacture arrives at a Degree of Perfection, they might be able to manufacture Shoes in Ireland, and sell them in London, though they paid £.10½ per Cent. because I conceive that they will derive Advantage greater than that from the Cheapness of Labour, which is always known to become cheaper by the Number of Hands employed in it.

Do you understand what is meant in the Irish Resolution by the countervailing Duty?

I suppose it means a Duty to balance the Duty of Excise—but to calculate that seems to me impossible, and thence arises my Alarm.

In what will the Difficulty of that Calculation consist?

The Excise is, I understand, 1½d. per lb.—the Hide, which pays that duty, contains a Variety of Qualities all subject to the same 1½d.—Suppose the Average Price of the Hide to be 10d —1½d. upon that is £.15 per Cent.; but if One Third of that is cut into Offal, valued at 5d. the 1½d. will then be £.30 per Cent. on that which is Offal.—When the Hide is cut up into Stuff for Shoes a very great Proportion still goes to Waste, Total Waste, that is.—Whence I infer, that it would be very difficult to state any countervailing Duty when it is made up, if at all possible.

Whether, if that Excise Duty on Shoes could be ascertained, it would not be necessary to add to it a certain Consideration for the

the Interest of Money, and other Disadvantages, sustained by the English Manufacturer, on account of the more early Stage in which he pays the Excise Duty?

Certainly, in all Cases when so large a proportion of the Prime Cost goes to the Excise, it is a great Advantage, if it could be avoided, to pay that when the Article is fully made up; and that is, I think, a very great Advantage, and would be found of very material Consequence to our Manufacture.

Is the Difference of paying the Duty in that early Stage, or when the Article is made up, capable of being calculated?

I know of no Injury so great to a Manufacturer as the Payment of Duties in the First Stage of his Business; because, if he could employ his Capital in purchasing the Raw Material, his Business would consequently be carried on with a Degree of Vigour proportioned to the Sum laid out in the Excise.

Is the Committee to understand, that it is your Opinion, then, that the Interest of the Money only would not be that Compensation?

No, certainly not, it would not be a sufficient Compensation—When I say that, I speak of Shoemakers, who are not rich Men, and cannot afford to lie out of their Money for the Sake of the Interest.

Are not undressed Hides now imported into Great Britain from Ireland?

Raw Hides I understand are, and Calf Skins in a most amazing Quantity—I heard a principal Tanner say, Fifty thousand Dozen last Year.

If the Irish Propositions pass, are you of Opinion that the Irish will then continue to send Raw Hides, as now, to the English Market?

They will be very much to blame to do it—their Interest points out to them a different Conduct.

In what State of the Manufacture will the Irish then send their Leather to England?

The same Motive that would induce them to manufacture the Raw Hides into Leather, would also induce them to carry the Manufacture through all its Branches—their Interest.

Is it your Opinion that the Irish Propositions will tend to the Establishment of the Manufacture of Shoes in Ireland, and to the Supply of the British Market?

It will tend certainly to the establishing the Manufacture in Ireland, and I am afraid the other would be the Consequence.

Q

Can

Can you state what Advantage the Irish would enjoy over the English in carrying on this Manufacture?

If they possess Advantages equal to Scotland, which I apprehend they do, the Success of their Manufacture might naturally be supposed to be equal; and I have mentioned a Circumstance to shew that Scotland now employs a great Number of Men in this Business, which Twenty Years ago employed none in it.

What is the Difference between the Price of the Raw Hides in Ireland and England?

I do not know, but if they were as dear in Ireland as here, they would not be sent here to sell.

Is there not a great Loss or Waste of Leather from the Period of its paying the Excise till it is fit to be manufactured into Shoes and other Articles?

Very great.

Will the Leather imported from Ireland into England be liable to the same Losses from the Time of its paying the countervailing Duty?

I should not think that the Irish would send it here before they had reduced it as low as they possibly could in Point of Weight, which may be done, without injuring the Leather, between the Time of its being tanned and made up into Shoes; and it was this Advantage which the Scotch had of shaving the Hide before it paid the Excise, which occasioned the Alteration that took Place last Year in Scotland; and this serves to shew that it may be done, and therefore that it will be done.

Can you state any other Inconvenience which you apprehend will follow if these Resolutions should pass?

I know of no other Inconvenience but that it will supplant our Manufactures.

Is it your Opinion that these Resolutions, if passed, will operate in any Degree as an Encouragement to Emigration?

I think the Irish will be able to offer considerable Advantages to Artizans to go over there, and I believe a Journeyman Shoemaker might be induced to go.

Examined

Examined by Members of the Committee.

How will the lowering of Duties on the Importation into Great Britain cause certain Destruction to the British Exportation Trade ?

By enabling the Person who imports upon low Duties here to undersell those who pay a high Excise.

What additional Advantage the Irish Propositions, if adopted, will give to Ireland, in the Exportation Trade, of which they are not now in Possession ?

I understand that the Irish may now export freely to any Country where they please, except Great Britain, and therefore the Thing wanted by them is sufficient Capital, and intelligent Artizans :—The Way to obtain both which seems to be opened to them by these Propositions, and my Reason for saying so is, it is not always convenient to a Manufacturer to export the Goods he makes, though he may have the Privilege of doing so, because his Returns are very uncertain ;—but in London it only requires to bring the Goods to Market, and Purchasers even for Ready Money will be found ; but at all Times the Manufacturer can fix the Period of his Payment—thus he acquires a Capital : And as to the other Part, which is skilful Artizans, the Intercourse between the Two Countries gives an easy Opportunity of acquiring them.

Whether the Advantages already possessed by the Irish in the Export Trade are not sufficient to induce Persons rather to apply their Capital, and endeavour to procure intelligent Artizans for carrying on their Business in Ireland, rather than in Scotland ?

I should certainly think so. I speak of this particular Manufacture.

Do you think that any Duty, upon the Importation of manufactured Leather from Ireland would be a countervailing Duty, unless it were sufficient to balance not only the $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per Pound Weight Excise Duty upon Leather, but also the whole Loss of the British Manufacture arising from Waste, and from the Advance of Money ?

I do not think that any Duty can be said to countervail, where the Balance is against us ; for if all these Things co-operate to enable the Irish to work so much under us, we must have an equal Allowance some how, to put us on equal Terms.

Whether the Waste in different Branches of manufacturing Leather is not very different ?

I should suppose so, but I am not conversant in this.

Do you attribute the Success in Scotland, in this Manufacture, to the comparative Cheapness of Labour there ?

I can attribute it to no other Cause.

Is Labour considerably cheaper in Ireland than in England ?

I do not know what the Price of Labour is in Ireland, of my own Knowledge ; I take it from Mr. Orde's Speech in the House of Commons in Ireland, which makes me believe that it is much cheaper there.

From what did you take Mr. Orde's Speech ?

I bought a Pamphlet which contains it.—I do not answer for its Authenticity.

Has the Manufacture declined in England, in the same Proportion it has improved in Scotland, in the last Twenty Years ?

I do not know.

Whether it is your Opinion, that every Thing that checks the Importation of a Raw Material is of itself an Injury to Manufacture ?

That is my Opinion.

Do you not believe, that under the new Arrangement Ireland will rather work up her own Raw Materials, than send them to England ?

I think so ; and I said so before.

Do you think it consistent with the Welfare of a Trading Country, to encourage the Importation of a Manufacture, and to discourage that of Raw Materials ?

I should imagine nothing could be worse Policy than that.

And then the Counsel and Witness were directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Jouis,

Jovis, 21^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded further on the Petition of the Manufacturers and Dealers in British Manufactures of the City of London, and other Cities and Towns of Great Britain.

The Counsel was called in, and informed the Committee, that he desired to proceed, in the next Place, to the Article of Cut Glafs.

Mr. JOHN BLADES, a Cut Glafs Manufacturer, and a Dealer in Plain Glafs, on Ludgate Hill, London, was called in, and examined.

Do you apprehend any Danger to the Cut Glafs Manufactory, if the Irish Propositions pass into a Law?

Yes;—from the Advantage the Irish Cut Glafs Manufacturer will have from his procuring his Plain Glafs at a much cheaper Rate than it can be manufactured in England.

At what do you estimate the Advantage which Ireland will have over Great Britain in this Article of Manufacture?

About £.50 per Cent.

How does that Difference arise?

I conceive it to arise from a Duty imposed on Glafs in 1777, which advanced it £.25 per Cent.—there was a Duty prior to that, in 1746, and Three £.5 per Cents. on both those Duties;—the Irish not being subject to those Duties makes the Difference.

Do you know when the First Duty was imposed in England? In 1746, I believe.

What was that Duty;
1d. per lb.

About

About how much per Cent. was that?
I do not know the Price at that Time.

What is the Whole that the Cut Glafs Manufacture pays?
It is very difficult to ascertain.

About what do you estimate it?
I cannot say.

At what Stage of the Manufacture are all the different Duties paid?

In the earliest Stage of the Manufacture—while in the Pot in a liquid State.

Are there any other Disadvantages which will affect this Trade?

The Disadvantage which seems likely to affect it most is the Advantage the Irish will have in sending it into this Country, which Advantage arises from our paying the Duty in an early Stage of the Manufacture, and they paying the nominal Duty on Importation, provided the Irish Propositions pass into a Law.

Is Cut Glafs prohibited to be imported now from Ireland?
There is a Duty on it, which amounts to a Prohibition.

Do you apprehend any Danger to your Business by taking off that prohibitory Duty?

The Danger I apprehend is the Emigration of Artists in that Line of Business to Ireland.

Is it your Opinion, that it will be easy to ascertain the countervailing Duty, if Cut Glafs should be imported from Ireland?
I think it will be very difficult.

As the Excise Duty is paid in the early Stage of the Manufacture, is there not a great Loss in the cutting of Glafs?
There is a very considerable Loss.

May that Loss be easily calculated?
It is various, from One Twentieth to One Half.

Are the Glafs Cutters ever deterred from making Experiments for the Improvement of the Trade, in Consequence of the Payment of the Duty in an early Stage, and the subsequent uncertain Loss that arises from the Cutting?

We are very much deterred.

If

If the Irish pay no internal Excise Duty under the same Circumstances, do they labour under the same Disadvantage ?

By no Means.

Are there any Glass Manufactories established now in Ireland ?

Some very lately—Manufacturers have gone from this Country.—A Mr. Hill, a great Manufacturer from Stourbridge, is lately gone to Waterford, and has taken the best Set of Workmen he could get in the County of Worcester with him.

How many Glass Manufacturers do you know have gone to Ireland—do you know any others besides Mr. Hill ?

I have heard of others—but do not know them.

Have you understood that any others have gone ?

I have.

Do you know how many Glass Manufactories are established in Ireland ?

There are Nine—Six of them are Flint Glass Manufactories—One is a House for making Broad Glass, and the Two others for making Bottles.

Is the Duty drawn back on the Exportation of Cut Glass ?

The nominal Duty is drawn back ; but there is a great Waste, and the Duty is drawn back only on what is actually shipped ; and there is also great Expence in the Shipping.

When the nominal Duty is drawn back on the Exportation of Cut Glass, what is the Loss arising from the Waste, and the Expences incurred by what is necessary to be done in order to obtain the Drawback ?

That I cannot exactly speak to.

Do you apprehend that the Irish Propositions will occasion the Emigration of Manufacturers in your Trade to Ireland ?

I think they will emigrate—where the Glass Makers have the Advantage, there the Glass Cutters will follow.

Do you know about what is the Amount of the Duty actually paid to Government on your Manufacture ?

I cannot speak to that.

Do you know the whole Amount of the Duty paid on the Glass Manufacture ?

I believe about £.80,000 per Annum.

Do

Do you apprehend the Glass Manufacture is flourishing in Ireland?

I understand it does.

Are you of Opinion that a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. together with the nominal Excise Duty, if that could be ascertained, would be a Protection to the English Manufacturer against the Danger of a Competition with Ireland?

I do not think that would be sufficient.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

When you talked of the nominal Duty on Importation from Ireland, did you mean a Duty adequate to the Glass Duties paid here?

I meant that the Payment of that Duty would not be adequate.

What do you conceive to be a Duty adequate to countervail the Duty paid here in the early Stage of the Manufacture, considering the Advance made by the English Manufacturer, and the contingent Losses for Breakage, and other Failures in the Progress of bringing the different Articles of Cut Glass to Perfection for the Market?

I cannot say exactly, but it would be something very considerable.

Will it not vary very much, as to every different Species of the Cut Glass?

It will vary in the Manner I have before described, from One Twentieth to One Half.

Is there any Rule by which the particular Proportion can be affixed and ascertained, with respect to the different Species?

I do not know of any Rule, the Articles are so various.

Is not the Variation also affected both by the continual Change of Fashion, and by the Difference of Skill in the different Manufactures?

Certainly it is.

If you were shewn particular Articles of high-wrought and high-finished Cut Glass, could you and others in the Business ascertain with any Precision, from the View and Examination of such Articles,

Articles, the Weight of Glafs which may have been cut away, or otherwife wasted, in order to bring them to that Perfection?

We could very nearly ascertain it.

Must not the afcertaining it depend in a great Measure on the Examination of each Article; and do you know, or believe, whether it can be done by any general Rule applicable to the feveral Claffes of the Manufacture?

Yes, I think it may be done, by claffing them according to the Risk of the Work there is upon them.

Will you name fome Articles in which the Risk is particularly great?

Ornamental Articles of Luftres and Girandoles are the moft hazardous.

In the cutting of Luftres and Girandoles, will not the Risk vary much, according to the Degree of finishing, which is expected to be given?

It will vary very much.

How then is the general Rule of a countervailing Duty to be applied to a Clafs of Articles which vary fo much in their Risk and Wafte?

I do not fee how it can be done.

Is it not probable that the Manufacture of Cut Glafs may be carried to a greater Perfection when the Experiments can be made free from the Duties now paid here, on that which muft be melted again before it comes to Market?

There is a great probability of it, that being the greateft Objection—when I have applied to a Manufacturer to make any Improvements, he has generally objected, faying, that he is fubject to the Duty, whether he fucceeds or not.

Is it not fometimes of great Confequence in preparing particular Articles, both for the Home and Foreign Market, to give a peculiar Tint and Clearnefs to the Manufacture, which can be only obtained by repeated Experiments?

It is of great Confequence, and can only be done by repeated Experiments.

Can you fay whether there is a great Export of Cut Glafs to Foreign Countries?

There is.

R

To

To what Countries principally ?

France and Russia, and to the East Indies principally—to all Countries in fact.

Has not this Export increased of late Years considerably ?

I do not know.

Are not the Articles exported in general of great Value ?

Many are, others not—some of small Value;—those to the East Indies are generally not of great Value.

Is not great skill required in cutting the very fine Articles of Cut Glass, such as Girandoles and Lustres ?

In the best Kinds great skill is required.

Do you imagine that that Skill may be exported to Ireland ?

It is already exported, not only to Ireland but to France.

Do you believe that the Export of Glass, the Manufacture of this Country, would be diminished, if the Irish Glass was allowed to be imported here, and exported again to Russia, France, and the East Indies ?

If they pay only the nominal Duty, I have no Doubt but it would, and they could supply this Market, and it would be exported from this Country, as it could be manufactured much cheaper there than it could be here.

Can you estimate what is the Difference between the real and nominal Duty on Glass ?

The Manufacturers of Plain Glass can ascertain that—I cannot.

You think then it can be ascertained ?

I think it can.

Whether the Difference between the real and nominal Duty on Glass is the same on every Article of that Manufacture ?

I cannot speak to that.

Whether the Risk in some Articles of the manufacture of Glass is not much greater than in others ?

It is much greater.

Whether the Duty paid by the Manufacturer is not greater or less, according to the Quantity broken in the different Articles ?

The Duty is charged in the First Stage of the Manufacture, and the Loss is greater.

The

The Expence, then, of the Manufacture is greater, in Proportion to the Loss?

The more hazardous the Ware, the greater the Loss.

Whether the Duty upon the Importation of manufactured Glass from Ireland would be a countervailing Duty, unless it balanced the Loss and Expence of the British Manufacturer, as well as the nominal Duty which he pays?

It cannot be equal, unless it balances the Loss as well as the Duty.

Do you think that any Person but a Manufacturer of Glass is capable of forming a sure Judgment of the proportionate Risk of the different Glass Manufactures?

I think no other Person is capable of it.

Is not Sand a principal Article in the Manufacture of Glass?
Sand is a principal Article.

From whence are the Irish supplied with their Sand?

I believe they have some from the Isle of Wight, but I am not certain.

Do not you know that they have it all from some Part of England?

I do not know.—I am not a Glass Maker, only a Manufacturer of Cut Glass.

If the Duty on the Importation of the Glass Manufacture from Ireland was justly calculated, so as to be a fair Equivalent to the internal Duty on the Glass Manufacture in this Country, do you understand that the Glass Manufacture could be then imported from Ireland, so as to undersell our Glass Manufacture?

I should suppose not, so as the Duty was laid to counterbalance the Loss and the Risk.

Do you know what is the Difference between the real and the nominal Duty on the Glass Manufacture?

I do not know—the Glass Makers can inform the Committee.

If, in Addition to the countervailing Duty justly calculated, there was also to be a Duty of £.10½ per Cent. upon all Glass Ware imported from Ireland, do you not apprehend that would be a sufficient Protection for the Glass Manufacture of this Country?

I am of Opinion that would not be sufficient.

Assign the Reason why you think it will not be a sufficient Protection?

I think it will not be sufficient, on Account of the Allowance that is made to the Maker being less than it should be:—They charge us, as Cut Glass Manufacturers, so much higher than they would do to One in our Line in Ireland—we paying them for the Plain Glass after they have paid the Duty, it comes so much higher to us; which makes our Loss so much greater in Breakage in cutting the Glass.

What Branch of the Glass Manufacture are you engaged in? and where do you carry on the Business?

In the Cut Glass Manufacture on Ludgate Hill.

Have you signed any Petition that has been presented to the House of Commons on the Subject of the Irish Propositions?

I have.

Is that the Petition now under Consideration, or any other? The Petition now under Consideration.

When you speak of the countervailing Duty being adequate to the Risk and Loss, do you not also mean to include the Advance of the Duty by the British Manufacturer in the early Stage, compared with that of the Irish Importer on the Landing of his Goods?

I do.

Supposing such Duty to have been settled, and properly rated as to every Branch of the Cut Glass Manufacture, would not the Irish Manufacturer still remain in Possession of an Advantage over the British Manufacturer, from the Circumstance of being able to try different Experiments without any Risk whatever?

The Irish would certainly have that Advantage, which is a very material One.

Whether, in the Nature of the Trade, the Glass on which you work is not to you what the Raw Material is to any other Manufacturer?

Yes, exactly the same.

Whether you have at present the relative Price of Glass in the Two Kingdoms?

No.

Whether the Irish Glass Manufacturers are, to your Information and Belief, increasing in their Number and Business?

I am informed they are.

Whether,

Whether, under the present Duties, any Quantity of Cut Glass is brought from Ireland to this Country, for Home Consumption or Exportation?

I believe none—the Duty is so very high.

Would not an Introduction of that Manufacture from Ireland occasion a proportional Decrease in the Exportation of the Manufacture of this Country, and in the Home Market?

Certainly.

What is the highest Proportion, in respect of the whole Value of any one Article, that is set upon it in Consequence of the Risk and Loss?

I cannot speak exactly to that Question.

Whether the Glass cut for Lustres in Ireland is in equal Repute, either in the British or Foreign Markets, with those manufactured in London?

I do not know—there have been some sent to Foreign Markets, but I do not know in what Repute—none is sent here.

Has not the Diamond Cut Glass for Lustres been of late exported to France in Greater Quantities than at any Time before?

I do not know.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. SAMUEL PARKER, a Cut Glass Manufacturer in Fleet Street, London, was called in, and examined.

Do you apprehend any Danger from the Irish Propositions?

Yes.

What?

From the very great Advantage the Irish Cut Glass Manufacturers will have in purchasing Plain Glass, the Raw Material, at a less Price than the Manufacturers in England can do.

To what Amount do you estimate the Advantage which Ireland will have over Great Britain in that Article?

I apprehend above £.50 per Cent.

How does that arise?

The Duty that was laid on the Manufacture in 1777 increased the Price to us £.25 per Cent.; in Consequence of which, I apprehend, the Duty, in the Year 1746, increased it the same—which makes out the £.50 per Cent.

What

What Stage of the Manufacture is the Duty paid in ?
It is collected whilst the Materials are in the Pot.

Are there any Expences attending the obtaining the Drawback of the Duty on the Manufactures exported ; and what are those Expences ?

About $\text{£} .8$ per Cent. Expence on the Drawback obtained, exclusive of the Time lost in giving Bond, &c.

Is there any Waste in the Cutting ?
Very considerable.

What do you estimate the Waste at ?
It is impossible to ascertain it.

Can you give any Idea of it ?
It is sometimes the Case, that the Glass on which we work is reduced sometimes One Half, sometimes One Quarter, and sometimes One Twentieth.

Do you know how the countervailing Duty on Glass imported can be ascertained !
I do not.

Do you apprehend any Danger to the English Manufacturer from the Repeal of the prohibitory Duty which now prevents Irish Glass from being imported ?
I do.

Will the Propositions encourage Emigration in any Degree ?
I conceive that they will.

Is the Glass Manufactory in Ireland now flourishing ?
I understand it is now increasing.

Are the Glass Cutters ever deterred from making Experiments in Consequence of the early Stage at which the Duty is paid, and the subsequent Loss on the Cutting the Glass ?

I have applied to Manufacturers to make Experiments, and have been answered, that the Loss of the Duty, if they did not succeed, would be too great to Risk for the Benefit accruing therefrom.

Whether the Irish Manufacturer is subject to that Disadvantage ?
I believe not.

Do you know of any Manufacturers having lately quitted this Country to establish themselves in Ireland ?

I have heard of some going.

Did

Did they take many Manufacturers with them?

I understand they took their complete Work: that is, a Number of Hands sufficient to carry on all the Manufactures.

Were any of those who went to establish themselves in Ireland eminent Manufacturers?

Yes.

Do you know what the Annual Duty arising from Glafs amounts to?

No.

Is it your Opinion that a Duty of $\text{£} .10\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. with the nominal countervailing Duty, if that could be ascertained, would be sufficient to secure the English Manufacturer against any Competition?

I conceive not.

Do you know of any other Inconvenience than those which you have already stated, that will result to the Manufacturer from those Propositions?

The comparative small Wages that Workmen have in Ireland to England, I conceive would be a Motive with the Irish Manufacturer to establish his Manufactory there.

Have you any other Information relating to the Drawback, to give to the Committee?

No.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Do you chiefly deal in Cut Glafs?

Chiefly.—We are concerned in both; but chiefly in Cut Glafs.

Is there a large Export of Cut Glafs to Foreign Countries?

Yes.

To what Country in particular?

We export to France, to Russia, and to the East Indies; those are the Three principal—some to Spain and Portugal.

Has that Export increased or diminished of late?

I rather think, from my own Knowledge and Judgment, that it has diminished, and will diminish.

Is not the Export greater than when you first began Business?
I conceive not.

To what do you impute the great Trade this Country has acquired in Cut Glafs?

To its superior Excellence.

Is the Cut Glafs Manufacture of this Country established in any other Place than London and its Neighbourhood?

Not to my Knowledge.

Do you conceive that it could be established in any other Part to Advantage, but the Capital?

In some Instances it could.

Do you conceive that it could be carried on as a Trade for Exportation, but in a Place where there is a great general Export?

I do not know that.

Did you ever hear that it ever was established but where there was a great general Export?

No.

Can you say what the Difference is between the nominal Duty on Glafs, and the real one, allowing for the Breakage, &c.?

The Duty is not collected from me, but from the Glafs Manufacturer.

Do you imagine, that in granting a Compensation for the Duty here on Glafs, some Average might not be taken, that would be a sufficient Compensation for the different Sorts of Cut Glafs?

I do not know that there could.

Could not they be arranged in different Classes, so as to equalize the Duty?

I do not think they could.

Whether the Orders on your House from Paris have not been increasing to the present Period?

It is next with us to a total Extinction.

Have any Manufacturers in the Cut Glafs Branch left this Country to go to Ireland?

There is a Person who I understand is procuring Workmen in the Cut Glafs Business to go to Ireland—he was here some Time ago.

Do

Do you conceive that any Workman in that Manufacture will go to Ireland to work for less Wages than he works for here?

I conceive at first they might go for the same Wages, it being offered them as a Bounty, which might soon be reduced, when they had taught some of their own People, from the great Difference of the Price of Labour.

Is the Skill in that Business easily to be learnt?

In many Branches it is not difficult.

Do you know any Reason which renders it impossible, or very improbable, that the Cut Glass Manufacture should be established in Ireland?

I do not.

Whether the Waste in different Branches of the Glass Manufacture is not very different?

Very different.

Whether the countervailing Duty or Importation of similar Articles of the Glass Manufacture from Ireland, must not likewise be different, in order to be proportioned to each respective Article?

Very much.

Whether, as you have said that you understand that the Irish Glass Manufacturer has an Advantage of £.50 per Cent, over the British Manufacturer, it will not be necessary, in order to protect the British Glass Manufacturer, that the Duty to be imposed on the Irish Manufacture must not, including the Expences of Importation, amount at least on an Average to £.50 per Cent.?

I conceive so.

Whether any Person, in your Opinion, except a Manufacturer of Glass, will be able to judge of the Waste and Risk, Loss and Expence, which has accrued in the manufacturing the several Articles in the Glass Manufacture?

I conceive it is impossible.

Are there any additional Duties lately imposed on the Manufacture in Russia or Germany?

Germany we send none to—in Russia I do not know that there have.

If the Irish Propositions should be carried into a Law, do you imagine it would be any Disadvantage to the Manufacture?

I do.

In what Instance could the Cut Glas Manufacture be carried on in other Places than London and its Neighbourhood ?

I cannot answer the particular Parts which could be so carried on.

Do you know any Part of the Manufacture that could be so carried on ? and what is it ?

I think if the Whole of the Manufacture was to be removed into any other Part of the Country, and not separated, the Whole might be carried on any where, not depending on any local Situation.

Did you mean, by saying that, that it could be carried on only in some Instances out of London,—that it could be carried on in the Whole out of London, and not in some Instances ?

I meant, that there were some Parts that did not require the immediate Inspection of the Principal.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel informed the Committee, That he will call no further Witnesses in Support of this Petition, and that his Evidence was closed.—And he stated to the Committee his Reasons for declining to be heard in Support of the Petition.

Then he was directed to withdraw.

Then the several Petitions on which Counsel were directed to be heard, were called over in the Order in which they were presented to the House ; but no Counsel or Agent attended, except the Agent for the Petition of the Glas Manufacturers of London, Bristol, Newcastle, and Glasgow ; who, being called in, informed the Committee, That he was not now prepared, because he understood that the Petitions were to be heard in the Order in which they stood ; but that he would be ready by Monday.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Luna,

Lunæ 25^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee was informed, That Counsel attended in Support of the Petition of the Glass Manufacturers of London, Bristol, Newcastle, and Glasgow.

The Counsel (Mr. Erskine) was called in.

Then the said Petition was read ; Setting forth, That the Petitioners conceive that a Commercial Arrangement with Ireland is of very great Importance to this Kingdom, and to the British Empire at large ; but they have great Reason to believe that the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament, now under the Consideration of this House, will not put the Two Kingdoms upon Terms of Equality, but will, if passed into a Law, eventually prove highly detrimental to the Manufactures and Commerce of Great Britain, and particularly to the Manufacture in which the Petitioners are engaged ; and that the Petitioners wish not nor do they mean, to object to or oppose, any System which can or may be adopted for the Purpose of putting both Kingdoms upon Terms of Equality in respect to their Manufactures and Commerce, but, on the contrary, would cheerfully and warmly support such System ; but the Petitioners apprehend, that, unless Ireland will consent to pay equal Duties with Great Britain on all her Imports, and an equal Excise on her Manufactures and internal Consumption, for the Support of the Empire at large, and that the same Regulations and Laws be adopted and made respecting the Exports from both Kingdoms, as well from one to the other, as from each to Foreign Parts, no Terms of Equalization can be settled between the Two Kingdoms ; and that if Terms of Equalization were to be settled between the Two Kingdoms as before mentioned, the Petitioners verily believe Ireland would still have and enjoy manifest and great Advantages over Great Britain, inasmuch as His Majesty's Subjects in this Kingdom are burthened with many very heavy and grievous Taxes, which the Petitioners apprehend

and believe they are in a great measure exempt from in Ireland ; and, moreover, the Manufacturers of Ireland, from their local Situation, will have a great Advantage over the Manufacturers of this Kingdom, in sending their Manufactures to Foreign Markets, and are or may be, as the Petitioners believe, supplied with Coal, the Produce of that Country, the Petitioners having been credibly informed, that that Species of Fuel has been found in various Parts of Ireland ; and that the Petitioners are informed, and have strong Reason to believe, that many Manufactories are already brought to Perfection, and carried on in Ireland with greater Success than in Great Britain, particularly in the Article of Glafs, a great Deal of which is now, and has been for some Time last past, illegally brought to and used in England, to the very great Detriment of the Petitioners ; and that if the Resolutions above mentioned should be adopted in the House, and passed into a Law, the Petitioners are apprehensive, and do verily believe, that unless some great Alterations are made in the Laws imposing Duties upon Glafs in Great Britain, that the Manufacture thereof will be totally annihilated in this Kingdom, and removed to Ireland, from whence this Country can and will be supplied with Glafs at a much cheaper Rate than the Petitioners, or any other Manufacturers in this Kingdom, can possibly do : And therefore praying, That the Resolutions above mentioned and referred to may not be passed into a Law, and that the Petitioners, by themselves or Counsel, may be heard on the Subject of this Petition at the Bar of the House.

The Counsel desired to be permitted to call his Witnesses first, and afterwards to be heard to observe on the Evidence.

Mr. JOHN HOLMES called in, and examined.

In what Branch of the Glafs Manufacture are you engaged ?
In Flint Glafs.

Do you apprehend that if the Irish Resolutions pass into a Law, it will affect that Branch of the Glafs Manufacture here in which you are engaged ?

I do.

In

In what Particulars?

In being subject to a heavy Duty of Excise, and a peculiar Mode of Collection; and the Irish Manufacturer being subject to neither, he will be enabled to undersell me in the Market in which I stand, while I shall not be able to go to his Market on equal Terms.

What is the Duty now paid on the Materials that you use for making of Glass?

The Rate is 18s. 8d. per Cwt. and £.15. per Cent. on that.

What is the Mode of collecting it, and the Allowance in the Course of that Collection for Waste?

The Mode is by Gauge, taken at the Opening of every Pot, previous to going to Work—the Allowance is One Quarter of the computed Weight.

Whether that Mode of Collection be prejudicial to the Trade, and in what Manner?

It is so in many Instances.

Enumerate them?

Such are, our not being allowed to purify our Materials, which in some Cases is absolutely necessary, and in all Cases very desirable, without being subject to a Duty double their Value; the Duty being charged at the Opening of every Pot, we are under a Necessity of paying the Duty, whether we can work the Materials or no—in these Circumstances we are prevented from making Experiments in the great Way—in the small, the Officer has it in his Option to charge them, or take them away.

What Allowance is made for Waste?

One Quarter of the computed Weight.

Explain in what Manner the Material is gauged on which the Duty is paid.

Previous to the Use of the Pot, the Dimensions of it are taken, then it is put into the Furnace and filled; after it is emptied, the Depth is retaken; the Diameter is squared and divided by 10.77, the Quotient is the gross computed Area; One Fourth Part is taken from that Area, and the Residue is multiplied by the Depth—There is another Allowance, which is One Inch at the Bottom, the Manufacturer not being able to work lower than he can cover the End of his Iron.

Whether

Whether the One Quarter Allowance for Waste is a sufficient Allowance to answer the real Waste ?

No.

Have you made any Calculation of the Excess of the real Waste beyond the Allowance ?

I have.

Produce it.

[The Witness produced the Account, but desired to explain it to the Committee before it was delivered in.]

The Gross computed Weight in the First Period amounted to 6,777 Cwt. 5 lb. the Duty charged on that was 4,670 Cwt. 3 qrs. the Waste in that Period amounted to 2,840 Cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lb. Ware saleable and unsaleable; being weighed as they came from the Annealing Oven, amounted to 3,272 Cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. Previous to the taking the Gauge, we are under a Necessity of skimming the Pot ; the Weight lost by skimming comes into the general Weight of the Waste.—The Books of the First Year are mislaid, and I have only an Abstract of the Monthly Entries ; but I have the Books of the Second Year. To make an Allowance for the Skimming, I suppose that Half an Inch would be too much, and that a Quarter of an Inch would be too little : Where the Officer has charged the Pot full, and made Allowance, when it was at Half an Inch, I computed it full ; when it was an Inch I did the same ; when it was more than an Inch I allowed nothing. There were Eight Pots charged full, Ninety at Half an Inch, One hundred and Thirty-seven at One Inch, and One hundred and Sixty-six at more than One Inch : The Average Computation for that is $22\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per Pot. The Ware and the Waste does not amount to the computed Weight—there may be several Reasons for it : The Density of the Metal is computed greater than it is, even in its most contracted State ; we are charged in its most expanded State ; the Dimensions are taken always before the Pots are dry, and there is no Allowance at all for the Contraction of the Pots or the Metal.

[See this Account at the End of the Evidence of this Witness.]

When that Waste Glass is melted over again for a new Manufacture, is not the Duty to be paid over again ?

Yes, it is deemed a Raw Material.

And is that so every Time it is melted over again, be it ever so often.

Yes.

What

What is the Drawback on Glafs exported ?

18s. 8d. per Cwt. and £.15 per Cent. on that, on all that is entered for Exportation ; but there are immense Quantities on which there is no Drawback ; such as is used by Manufacturers in their own Manufacture, and shipped in small Quantities both by Maker and Seller, such as Button Makers, and several other Trades who use Glafs in their Manufactures.

Whether, when the Glafs is entered for Exportation so as to be entitled to the Drawback, the Drawback received is equal to the Duty paid ?

No.

Explain that Part of your Calculation which states the Difference between the Duty paid and the Drawback received ?

It will stand thus in this Account which I have here :—The Nett Duty charged on us between 29th July 1782, the Day of the Commencement of the present Duty, and the 31st of Decem-

Cwt.
ber 1784, being 6198 amounting to £.6,652 10s. 4d. then as the Duty in the former Period is to the Ware it produced, so will the Charge in the latter Period be to its Product, which

Cwt.
amounts to 4342.35 which will be the Quantity of Goods, saleable and unsaleable, made in the latter Period—from which I deduct, for Goods by various Accidents broken, and those that were rendered unsaleable, which is known by repeated Experiments to

Cwt.
be £.10 per Cent.—that will amount to 434.235.—Deduct not being allowed by the present Act to return superfluous Metal and Pieces spoiled in making, at the Time they are so, it amounts at least to £.7 per Cent. in Addition to the £.10 per Cent.—that

Cwt.
amounts to 325.675 together they amount to 759.91. Sub-

Cwt.
tract from the Quantity of Ware, they amount to 3582.44 ; which I suppose is the greatest Quantity of Goods possible to be produced and made from such a Charge—the Duty on which would amount to £.3,845 3s. the Excess of Charge will be

Cwt.
2615.56 the Duty of which would amount to £.2,807 7s. 4d. which is equal to £.73 per Cent. on the Weight of the Goods, or 15s. 8d. per Cwt. and makes the Duty really paid to be £.1 17s. 1½d. per Cwt. which is more than double the Value of the Material.

[See this Account at the End of the Evidence of this Witness.]

Do

Do you mean that, although you receive the Drawback on Exportation, yet that in Fact you pay a very large Duty ?

I make it 15s. 8d. per Cwt.

Have you introduced into the Calculation the Expence of procuring the Drawback ?

We have shipped in the last Period, on board 124 Ships, 657 Cwt. 18 lb.—Drawback amounting to £.705 7s.—Stamps and Fees at the Excise Office, exclusive of the Customs, is £.55 16s. which is equal to £.8 per Cent. on the Drawback, and not less than £.1½ per Cent. on the Invoices of Plain Glafs,

Do these Expences invariably attend the Drawback ?

They do.

Then must not that £.8 per Cent. be added to the Difference formerly stated by you, between the Duty paid and Drawback received ?

Yes.

Do you find the Exportation of your Manufacture on the Decline, or the Increase ?

I have taken the Average of the last Seven Half Years, and I find that the last Half Year is less than the Average of the Six Half Years preceding, by near Two Thirds ; I speak only of my own Trade, I know nothing of the general Trade.

What Fees are paid at the Custom House to obtain the Drawback ?

It is in Dispute, whether there are any Fees due at the Custom House, or not—we sometimes enter them, and sometimes not.

Are there any Glafs Manufacturers in Ireland ; and to what Extent is the Manufacture carried on there ?

I believe there are Six Flint Glafs Houses in Ireland, and that Three of these work with much Success—I am doubtful about the others.

Are any, and what Duties paid by the Glafs Manufacturers there, either for Home Consumption or Exportation ?

None—and they go to the Colonies without any countervailing Duty whatever.

If the Glafs Manufacturers in Ireland are suffered to import their Glafs Manufactures into this Country, at a countervailing Duty of 18s. 8d.—will they be able to undersell the Glafs Manufacturer here ?

They will.

What

What are your Reasons for thinking so ?

I can only speak from my own Manufactory, and I will state it—The Amount of our Sales, between the 29th of July 1782, and the 31st of December 1784, amounts to £.19,971—Duty paid on that Produce, £.6,652. 10s. 4d.—The Duty on such

Cwt.

Sales amounts to 33. 31 per Cent.;—The Value of 325. 675 of Metal, being wasted and spoiled, which might have been used if the Maker had been allowed to have returned it while hot into the Furnace, is worth 56s. per Cwt. and is equal to 4. 56 per Cent. on the Sales;—The Stamps and Fees of Entry are equal to 1. 48: Which Three Sums amount to 39. 35 per Cent. on the Sales, which is a Charge in Consequence of the Duty—exclusive of Interest, and the Risk of Capital, and the oppressive Mode of Collection.—The greatest Quantity of Goods that can possibly be

Cwt.

produced amounting to 3582. 44, the Drawback on which will amount to £.3,845. 15s. which on the Sales will be 19. 25 per Cent. the Excess of Price of Goods exported, created by the Duty, will be equal to £.20. per Cent.

Are there not a considerable Number of skilful Workmen in the Manufacture gone to Ireland ?

There are—Three Fourths of the Artificers in Ireland are Emigrants; the Masters of Four of the Houses are English.

Whether you impute the Decline of the Export Trade from this Country, in your particular Branch, to the oppressive Duty you have mentioned, and to the Mode of collecting?

Yes, I do.

If the Irish Parliament should admit French Glafs into Ireland at low Duties, might it be easily brought into this Country, without its being possibly distinguished from Irish Glafs?

I think it is probable that it might.

On the Whole, whether you think the Glafs Manufacturers in this Country could possibly carry on the Trade, if the Irish Manufacturer had our Market open to him, without a Duty which would be equal to all the Taxes, Difficulties, and Inconveniences which you have enumerated To-day as attending on our Manufacture?

I do not think he could.

T

You

You have said, that 18s. 8d. per Cwt. would not be such a countervailing Duty; what do you think would be a countervailing Duty?

You ought to take the Duty off here, and make it equal to what it is in Ireland.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Has there been a gradual Decline in the Trade of Glafs since the laying on the last Duty?

I cannot tell which was the biggest Half Year, and which was the least; I believe the Year 1782 was the biggest.

Do you know any Glafs Houses that have been obliged to give up Business in Consequence of that additional Duty?

There have been but Four Houses began since the Duty, Two of which are Bankrupts;—besides which, there are mine and another—and more are declining, Two or Three.—One, I believe, at Bristol, and another at Stourbridge—One is gone to Ireland. I do not know the Reason of their leaving off.

If the Glafs of England could be exported directly free of Duty, do you think it of a Quality that would be in Demand Abroad?

I believe it is much esteemed every where.

Is it reckoned the best that is made in Europe?

I have always understood it to be received so.

Are there not some other Duties added to the 18s. 8d. per Cent?

Three £.5 per Cents.

Whether the Duties chargeable on Glafs are not laid in the Pot, before the Material is worked?

I said so before.

You have stated several Charges, and the Amount thereof, which continue to operate upon British Glafs exported after the Drawback given—are the Irish Dealers in Glafs subject to any such Burthen on their Export?

No;—they are all free.

Was

Was this what you meant, when you said that the Irish Glass Ware is sent to the Colonies without any countervailing Duty?

Yes.

Supposing it possible to prescribe a Duty on Irish Glass imported into England, adequate to or an Equivalent for the Duties paid here, and in Consequence thereof that Ireland should have a fair and equal Participation of the British Market;—would not her retaining the Advantage mentioned in your last Answers on the Export Trade, tend to deprive this Country of the Manufacture, and to give the Whole of it to Ireland?

I do not think it possible to calculate or estimate any Equivalent, especially when we consider the Mode of Collection; under this Idea—that every Manufacturer, who has a Regard to the Reputation of his Goods, will look upon being deprived of working and using the Materials to the best Advantage, as inestimable.

Do you understand that after equalizing the Duties to be paid on the Importation of the Irish Glass Ware, that the Irish Glass Manufacturer would still retain the Advantage of trying Experiments in bringing his Manufactures to Perfection, without any Part of that Risk or Loss to which the British Manufacturer is subject?

No Doubt but he would.

Does not that Risk and Loss vary according to the Species of the different Branches of the Manufacture?

Yes; in this Manner—the Articles are exceedingly numerous, and the Waste upon them is as various.

Could then any general Rule or Rate of Duty be applied as the adequate Duty to be paid by the Irish Manufacturer on his Importation into England?

I do not know any that could be devised.

Supposing the adequate Duty to be taken upon the Examination of each Article, could that be settled by the Revenue Officers on their own Judgment?

The Revenue Officers, I apprehend, can settle any Thing; but they cannot settle it equitably.

You have said, that since the last Duty, Four Houses have been set up, of which Two have failed—Whether any have failed that were established before the late Duty?

Yes;—I remember One failing.

Whether there are not as many Glas Houses subsisting now as before the late Duty ?

I believe not—I said Four Houses have set up in my Branch since the Duty in 1777; Two of which have become Bankrupts—Three others have left off, for a Reason I could not tell.

How many Glas Houses are there in the Kingdom ?

I do not know.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

An ACCOUNT of the Grofs computed Weight, Nett Charge of Duty, the Wafte and Ware, weighed, in a Period of Two Years, previous to the Commencement of the prefent Duty on Glafs; With a COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT of the Ware produced between the 29th Day of July 1782 and the 31st Day of December 1784.

	Cwt.	q.	lb.
Grofs computed Weight in the 1st Period	6,777	—	5
Duty charged on Do.	4,670	3	—
Wafte Do.	2,840	3	7
Ware faleable and unfaleable, being weighed as they came from the Annealing Oven	3,272	1	11

The Nett Duty charged on us between the 29th of July 1782 and the 31st of December 1784, being 6,198, amounting to $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{6,652} \frac{\text{q.}}{10} \frac{\text{lb.}}{4}$

$\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{4,670} \frac{\text{q.}}{3} \frac{\text{lb.}}{—} : \frac{\text{Cwt.}}{3,272} \frac{\text{q.}}{1} \frac{\text{lb.}}{11} :: 6,198$

$\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{4342.35}$ Quantity of Goods, faleable and unfaleable, poffible to be produced.

Deducted for Goods by various Accidents broke, and otherwise rendered unfaleable by repeated Experiments, is known to be full $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{434.235}$ per Cent.

Deduct, not being allowed by the prefent Act to return fuperfluous Metal, and Pieces fpoiled in making, at the Time they are fo, is at leaft $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{325.675}$

$\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{759.91}$

The greateft Quantity of Goods poffible to be produced and fold from fuch a Charge, will be

The exceffive Charge on the Manufacture will be

Equal to $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{3582.44}$ per Cent. on the Ware, or 15s. 8d. the Hundred Weight; and will make the Duty $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{2615.56}$ Amounting to $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{3,845} \frac{\text{q.}}{3} \frac{\text{lb.}}{—}$ 33.31 per Cent. which is more than double the Value of the Materials.

The Amount of our Sales of Plain Glafs, between the 29th of July 1782 and the 31st of December 1784, being $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{£.6,652} \frac{\text{q.}}{10} \frac{\text{lb.}}{4}$, the Amount of Duty paid in the fame period $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{33.31}$ per Cent.

Value of 325.675 Metal wafted by being fpoiled in making, &c. and which might be ufed, if the Maker was allowed to return it into the Furnace while hot, at 56s. the Hundred Weight, is $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{4.56}$ per Cent.

Having fhipped in the fame Period on board of 124 Ships 657. 18. the Drawback amounting to $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{£.705} \frac{\text{q.}}{7} \frac{\text{lb.}}{—}$ the Stamps and Fees, exclusive of the Customs, amounting to $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{£.55.16}$ is equal to near $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{1.48}$ per Cent. on the Drawback, and on the Sales

Charge in Confequence of the Duty on the Sales is, exclusive of Intereft, and Risk of Capital, and the oppreffive Mode of Collection $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{39.35}$

The greateft Quantity of Goods that can poffibly be made and fold from the above Charge, being $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{3582.44}$, the Drawback of the Whole would amount to $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{£.3,845} \frac{\text{q.}}{15} \frac{\text{lb.}}{—}$ which on the Sales will be $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{19.25}$ per Cent.

Exceffive Price on Goods exported, created by the Duty, exclusive as above on the Sales, is $\frac{\text{Cwt.}}{20.1}$ per Cent.

Mr.

Mr. ROBERT HURST, Crown Glas Maker, and Maker of Glas for Windows and common Bottles, at Bristol, called in, and examined.

How do you conceive the Irish Resolutions will affect the particular Branch of your Manufacture?

It will be very injurious to us.

In what Respect?

With respect to the heavy Duty we now labour under, and the Mode of collecting it.

What is the Duty you pay on the Crown Glafs?

14s. per Cwt. and Three £.5 per Cents.

What is the Mode of collecting it, and the Allowance made for Waste?

It is gauged by the Excise Officers in the fluid State in the Pots—The Allowance for Waste is One Fourth.

Is that Allowance so made by the Excise an adequate Allowance for the real Waste?

By no Means.

When it is necessary to fuse the Metal which has been Waste, the Part that has been gauged before, does not it pay Duty over again?

It is considered as a Raw Material, and pays Duty over again and so toties quoties.

What Number of Glafs Manufactories are there in Ireland?

Only One in our Branch.

Are there any Duties paid there on Home Consumption, or on Exportation?

Not any.

Then, upon the State you have given, if the English Market is open to the Irish Manufacturer, will they be able to undersell you and those concerned in the same Trade here?

Certainly they will.

Have you any particular Reasons for thinking so, besides those you have mentioned?

The Glas which is imported from Ireland to England pays only a Duty for what they really manufacture—we pay a heavy Duty for what we cannot manufacture.

How

How much do you pay Annually for Duties?

Nearly £.18,000 per Annum.

Do you receive the Whole of that back by Way of Drawback on Exportation, or what Proportion of it?

Not by Two Fifths, or one Third.

What Proportion of Capital were you obliged to employ on Account of Duties?

More than One Third.

From whence is the Manufacture supplied with Ingredients for making your Glafs?

From Ireland—the most material from Ireland.

Does that Material pay any Duty on Importation?

17s. per Ton on the Kelp.

If the Manufacturer of Crown Glafs in Ireland had the English Market open to him, on a countervailing Duty of 14s. per Cwt. could you, or any other in the same Way of Trade, meet them in the Market here?

We could not.

Have you found any Decline in the Exportation Trade in your particular Branch since the last Duty laid on?

We find some Decline in the Exportation to Ireland.

Have you made any Calculation of what would be a countervailing Duty, if 14s. per Cwt. would not be?

I cannot say I have made any, nor do I apprehend any could be made.

Whether you export any considerable Quantity of Glafs at present?

We do.

Whether the Exportation of Glafs has increased or decreased of late, as far as you know.

Rather decreased.

Whether you export any Quantity of Glafs at present to Ireland?

We do.

Whether that Export has increased or decreased of late?

I think on the Whole it has rather decreased.

To

To what do you impute that Decrease?

A good deal owing to some that has gone from Newcastle, which, during the War, they could not send, and then it went from us.

Do you then mean to say, that the Trade of Newcastle has got what the Trade of Bristol has lost?

Probably it may be so.

Assign a Reason why you apprehend that Glafs may be imported from Ireland to England in case Duties should be laid on the Importation on Irish Glafs, equal to the internal Duties now subsisting in this Country, though you acknowledge that under our present Disadvantages we export a great Quantity of Glafs to Ireland?

Respecting the Duty, they pay, as I said before, a Duty only on what they really manufacture—we pay a Duty on what we do not manufacture.

If, on laying the Duty on Irish Glafs, there should be an additional Duty in Consideration of the Waste, should you then have any Apprehension?

Certainly.

Assign your Reason for that?

We have not an Opportunity, under the present Mode of collecting the Duty, of making the best of our Materials: When an Exciseman has gauged our Pot, if by any unforeseen Accident that should turn bad, we are obliged to pay the Duty, though we are obliged to lade it out, and throw it away—The Irish have every Advantage, from paying no Duty, of making the best of their Materials.

If the Irish, with these Advantages on their Side, and with the Disadvantages on our Side which you have stated, cannot exclude the Glafs of this Country from their Market, which must be subject to Freight, Commission, and Insurance, assign any sufficient Reason how they can ever send their Glafs to interfere with our Market?

They now send their Glafs to interfere with our Market;—we have Letters from One or Two of our Correspondents, who say they cannot buy our Glafs, as they can have it so cheap from Ireland.

Where do these Correspondents reside?

At Whitehaven.

Is this Glafs lawfully imported ?
They do import it, and underfell us.

In what Manner could the Duty be levied, without being so oppressive to the Manufactory as you state it to be, by gauging the Metal in the Pot ?

When we manufacture Glafs we put it into an Annealing Kiln, there to cool gradually ; nor can we draw it out under a certain Period, if we were it would break all to Pieces.—If the Legislature would lay the Duty on the Glafs that is there manufactured, and put in those Kilns, it would remove the Grievance.

Is there a Possibility of a Fraud on the Revenue by such Alteration ?

There could be no Possibility of a Fraud : Either the Proprietor of the Manufactory, or a Head Workman, would always attend the Officer to take the exact Weight of the Glafs that comes out of those Kilns, and would be upon Oath that no Fraud should be committed.

Would such Method be attended with a greater Expence to Government, by the Attendance of the Excise Officer, or otherwise ?

It would be a great Saving to Government, for an Officer then must attend only Four Times a Week, and now he attends Night and Day to make a great many unnecessary Surveys, and has an additional Salary for so doing.

In what Proportion to each Manufactory might such Saving be of the Excise Officer attending ?

More than Half.

Have you any Reason to believe, that Crown Glafs is made and exported in any considerable Quantity from Newcastle ?

Yes.

Exclusive of paying a Duty, not only for what you manufacture, but for what you say you do not manufacture, is not the Advance of Duties a considerable Article to the Disadvantage of the British Manufacturers ?

Certainly.

Can you give any Account of the Nature of that Advance, and how long, on the Average, it is before the Sale of the Article for the Home Market, or the receiving the Drawbacks on the Exportation ?

Twelve, Fifteen Months, Two Years on the Home Market—and on the Exportation, on an Average, about Two Years.

You

You have said, you pay about £.18,000 per Annum for the Duties on Glafs—Can you give any Average Account of the Sum of which you are generally in Advance ?

From £.8,000 to £.10,000.

Would not the Facility which the Irish Manufacturer would have of making perfect and clear Glafs, by repeating his Experiments without risking the Loss of Duties by Breakage, operate much against the British Manufacturer, after equalizing the internal Duties ?

Very considerably.

If, in Consequence of the Irish Propositions being carried into Effect, the Irish Manufacturer should gain a full and fair Participation of the British Market, must it not be by a proportionable Diminution of the British Manufacture ?

Certainly.

Whether of late Years the Exportation of Glafs to Ireland has increased or decreased ?

It has decreased.

Whether, according to the best Information you have received, the Manufacture of Glafs in Ireland is not a growing Manufacture, and has not considerably increased within these few Years ?

I judge it to be a growing Manufacture, because they are now sending Letters from Ireland to some of my principal Workmen, offering them every Advantage if they will leave England, and go to Ireland.

Have you not heard of several Glafs Houses lately erected in Ireland ?

They have in the Bottle Way, not in the Crown—the Reason is, that they cannot get the Workmen over—the Workmen have brought me the Letters as soon as they received them, wanting me to increase their Wages on account of the great Offers from Ireland.

Do you think it could be practicable, that such a Port Duty could be laid on Goods imported from Ireland, as would exactly countervail the internal Duties laid on the Manufacture in England ?

I do not apprehend it could.

Are not the Duties different, owing to the different Quality of the Manufacture ?

Equally the same—They gauge a Pot, and whether good or bad it equally pays the Duty. I have often desired the Officer to look at it, and he has said, he durst not interfere—and have frequently requested them to stand by me during the Time of having all the Goods weighed that have really been manufactured, and to weigh the Waste in manufacturing, and then compare it with their Gauge, to convince them how much more Duty they charged us with, than there is really Glass in the Pot.—Their Answer was, they durst do no such Thing. We can make it appear, since our Copartnership, that we have paid an Extra Duty of £.14,000.

Is the Extra Duty, as you call it, on the Duty which you pay, over and above the Goods brought to any Degree of Perfection, in any certain Proportion to the Goods which were saleable ?

Nearly One Third.

Does that Proportion hold in the different Sorts of Manufacture, or only upon the Whole of the Manufacture taken together ?

In some Particulars (the Cut Glass) which we export, we have a Loss of £.35 per Cent. owing to not being suffered to draw back equal to what we pay.

Is the Committee then to understand, that the Drawback is not adjusted in such a Manner as in Substance to drawback the whole Duty which is paid ?

The great Loss which we suffer in cutting up the Glass that has paid the Duty for Exportation will amount to that Sum, which Waste we are obliged to pay Duty for over again, it being considered as Raw Material to go into the Pot.

Whether you think that, in the present Mode of collecting the Duty, it would be practicable so exactly to adjust the Drawback, as to leave your Exportation Duty-free, and yet to receive no Bounty ?

I do not apprehend it would.

If the Duty was laid on the Goods drawn out of the Annealing Ovens, whether the Drawback could not then be exactly ascertained ?

There then would be a great Waste in cutting, should the Duty be so laid.

Whether

Whether it would not be attended with very great Convenience to the Manufacturer, in order to complete his Metal to the highest State of Purity, and to enable him to meet Foreigners with Equality at Foreign Markets?

It certainly would.

What is the Cause of the Extra Charge of the Duty, which you say has amounted to £.14,000 in your Manufacture?

The Mode of collecting the Duty, and not having an Allowance adequate to the Waste of the Work.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

The Counsel having no more Evidence to produce in Support of this Petition, he was heard.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

A Member present informed the Committee, That Mr. John Holmes, the first Witness examined this Day, desired that the Committee would be pleased to understand, that his Evidence related only to the Flint Glass Manufactory, in which he was engaged.

To report a Progress, &c.

Jovis, 28^o die Aprilis 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee proceeded on the Petition of the Master Silk Weavers in London and Manchester.

The Counsel (Mr. Graham) was called in.

And the said Petition was read ; Setting forth, That the Petitioners are greatly alarmed at the Resolutions brought before the House respecting the Commercial Regulations now depending betwixt Great Britain and Ireland, which if carried into Effect, will be greatly injurious to the Silk Manufactures of this Kingdom ; and that the Duty on Raw and Thrown Silks imported into Great Britain is much higher than in Ireland, and, the Petitioners have been informed, that it is not intended to equalize the Duty by subjecting the Irish to the same Duty on the Importation of that Article as is paid here, but by laying a Duty on Irish Manufactured Goods when imported into Great Britain ; and that the Petitioners apprehend, that this Mode of equalizing the Duties on Silk will be very injurious to the Silk Manufactures of Great Britain, as it will give great Encouragement to Smuggling, the equalizing Duty, added to the protecting and Excise Duties on some Articles of considerable Consumption, amounting to upwards of £.25 per Cent. on their Value, and Silk Goods being peculiarly exposed to Smuggling, being of small Bulk in Proportion to their Value ; and that the Price of Labour is well known to be considerably lower in Ireland than here, as well as the Duties on the Materials used in Dying Silk : And therefore praying, That the House will take the Premises into Consideration, and prevent those Resolutions from passing into a Law ; and that they may be heard, by themselves or Counsel, in Support of the Allegations contained in this Petition.

The Counsel was heard.

Mr.

Mr. JAMES MAY, a Manufacturer of Silk, in Church Street, Spital Fields, London, was called in, and examined.

What Sort of Goods do you Manufacture ?
Brocades and Sattins, chiefly Sattins at present.

What are the Duties paid in England on the Importation of Thrown Silk ?

7*s.* 4*d.* per lb. of 16 Oz.

What are the Duties paid in Ireland on Thrown Silk imported there from Foreign Countries ?

2*s.* 0½*d.* Irish, or 1*s.* 10*d.* English per lb. of 16 Oz.

What Duties are paid in England on the Importation of Raw Silk.

4*s.* 6*d.* per lb. of 24 Oz. and 3*s.* per lb. of 16 Oz.

What are the Duties paid in Ireland on the Importation of Raw Silk from Foreign Countries ?

1*s.* Irish, and 11*d.* English per lb. of 24 Oz. or about 8*d.* per lb. of 16 Oz.

What is the 'Drawback on Thrown Silk exported from hence to Ireland ?

6*s.* 6*d.* per lb. of 16 Oz.

What is the Drawback on Raw Silk exported from hence to Ireland ?

3*s.* 7½*d.* per lb. of 24 Oz. and about 2*s.* 5*d.* per lb. of 16 Oz.

What is the Average Price of Thrown Silk imported into England, with the Duty ?

From 26*s.* to 38*s.* per lb. of 16 Oz.

What is the Average Price of Raw Silk imported into England ?

From 15*s.* to 30*s.* per lb. of 24 Oz.

Can you state what Advantage per Cent. Ireland will have over England on the Raw Material ?

On Thrown Silk it is upwards of £.20 per Cent. ; imported through England into Ireland about £.18 per Cent. ; on the Raw Silk imported into Ireland from Foreign Countries about £. 15½ per Cent. ; on Raw Silk, coming through England, imported into Ireland, about £.12½ per Cent.

Can

Can Ireland reap any other Advantage over England, in any other Respect in this Manufacture—and you will state in what Respect?

In many others, the Difference in Money in Workmanship amounting to about £.2 per Cent. The Difference on the Raw Silk, before it can be used in our Manufacture, besides what has been already stated, this comes to about £.2 per Cent.

Are you aware of any other Advantage which Ireland may have?

In the Workmanship :—They can carry on their Trade with much less Capital than we can ;—they have less Rent to pay, and less Taxes, and Provisions much cheaper.

How long have you been concerned in the Silk Trade?
Upwards of Twenty Years.

Have you ever sent any Goods in your Branch of Trade to Ireland, to any, and what Amount?

I cannot state the Amount, but it amounts to many Thousand Pounds.

Have you ever made any Calculation, what would be the Difference in favour of Ireland, taking into Consideration only the Difference of the Duties on the Importation of the Raw Material?

In our Articles it amounts to £.15 per Cent. and upwards.

What are those Articles?
Plain Sattins chiefly.

Have you made any Calculation of the Difference in favour of Ireland, with Respect to other Articles in the Silk Trade?

I have made no Calculation but where I am concerned.

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Is not the Price of Labour in the Silk Manufacture settled by the Justices, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament, in England?
Yes, it is.

Is not the Price of Labour in the Silk Manufacture in Ireland settled by a Tariff annexed to an Irish Act of Parliament?

I believe there is such a Book—a Copy of ours, which was published some Years ago.

Is the Committee then to understand, that the Irish Regulation of the Price of Labour in this Manufacture is a Copy of the English Regulations for the same Purpose ?

I cannot say that it is a Copy exactly.—When I was in Ireland last Year, the Journeymen there applied to me to know the Price of some Work then made in London, on which they produced to me the Book they go by, and I shewed them the Article, by which they saw what we pay in London.

Can you say, that the regulated Prices are not the same in both Countries, or nearly so ?

I believe they are nearly the same at present.

If there is, as you say, a large Exportation of Silk Goods in your Branch, from this Country to Ireland, how do you reconcile this Circumstance with their being able to work so much cheaper in Ireland than you can here ?

At the Time that I spoke of, the Manufacture was not established in Ireland as it is at present,

Do you take upon yourself to say, that the Manufacture of Silk in Ireland has of late increased ?

I believe it has, within these few Years.

Have the Irish increased in their Importation of Raw and Thrown Silk from this Country ?

I cannot say.

Have they increased in the Importation of Raw and Thrown Silk from any Foreign Countries ?

I cannot answer that Question.

If it should appear by Accounts, that they have decreased in these Two Articles, is it possible that their Manufacture should have increased ?

I should suppose not.

Is there not a Drawback, or Bounty in Nature of a Drawback, on Silk Goods exported from this Country to Foreign Countries ?

There is.

Is it equal, or nearly so, to the Drawback on Raw and Thrown Silk ?

Upon some it is, on others not.

Have the Irish any Pattern Drawers in the Silk Manufacture ?

I do not know that they have ; and if we had had none in England, it would have been better, I believe, for the Manufacture, because

because the Figured Silks have not been worn within these few Years.

Are there not several Sorts of Silks in which the Skill of eminent Pattern Drawers is absolutely necessary ?

There are.

Of what Country are you ?

I was born in France.

Have you ever been at Lyons ?

I have not.

Do you not know, that One of the great Advantages of the Manufacture of Lyons is the Eminence of their Pattern Drawers ?

I believe it has been so.

Do you understand, that the Prices in the Irish Tariff of Prices were calculated in English or in Irish Money ?

In Irish Money ?

Whether the Journeymen Weavers in Ireland do not find Reed and Harnes, which the Journeymen Weavers in Spital Fields do not ?

I believe they do.

Whether a good Deal of Soap is not used in preparing the Silk Manufacture ?

A great deal.

Do you not know that Soap is much cheaper in Ireland than in England ?

It certainly is much cheaper there.

At what Price is it sold in Ireland for at present ?

I believe at about £.1. 2s. per Cwt.

At what Price is it now sold in England ?

I cannot exactly say, but I believe at about £.3. 10s. per Cwt.

Do not you understand that Handkerchiefs are a principal Branch of the Irish Silk Manufactory ?

I believe they make a great many, but I do not make any—
There is a Gentleman here who can answer that Question better.

Is the Skill of a Pattern Drawer necessary in the Manufacture of Silk Handkerchiefs ?

It is not,

Do

Do you know whether the Irish have manufactured Silk Stockings?

I believe they have.

How long ago was it you sent a Quantity of Goods to Ireland?

About Two Years ago.

Whether a Pound of Raw Silk, of Sixteen Ounces, when worked up in the complete Manufacture, will continue to weigh Sixteen Ounces—whether there will not be some Waste?

A Pound of Silk, of Sixteen Ounces, if dyed, will not produce more than Eleven Ounces and an Half, if died in Colours—I do not mean Black.

Whether the figured and fancied Silks are at present the most considerable Part of the British Silk Manufacture?

They are not.

Whether the Manufacture of Plain Silks does not bear a greater Proportion to the whole Manufacture than Figured Silks do?

I believe they do.

Will you state what is the Duty left on each Sort of Silk, when exported from England to Ireland?

10*d.* on the Thrown Silk, per lb. of 16 Oz.—10½*d.* on the Raw Silk, per lb. of 24 Oz.

Have you read the Irish Propositions?

I have.

Do you understand, then, that under the Second Proposition, the whole Duty of all Foreign Articles exported from Great Britain to Ireland is to be fully drawn back?

I understand it so.

Will not this Circumstance, then, give to the Irish Manufacturer the Raw Silk and Thrown Silk at 10*d.* and 10½*d.* per lb. cheaper, when received from this Country, than it has hitherto been?

It certainly will.

Did you take this Circumstance also into your Calculation, when you stated the Advantage which the Irish Manufacturer would have over the English, in case the Propositions should be adopted by this Country?

I did not, as I have only stated what now existed.

X

What

What Weight of Wrought Silk may be packed within the Compass of Six Pounds of Tea?

That depends upon the Sort of Silk; there may be a great Quantity of Handkerchiefs packed within that Compass—Two or Three Dozen of Pair of Silk Stockings may be packed in the Compass of Two Pounds of Tea.

Can you form any Estimate of what would be the Amount of the countervailing Duty upon Two Dozen Pair of Silk Stockings, or can you tell the Weight of that Quantity?

I never weighed them, they are of different Weights.

Are Silk Stockings now prohibited from being imported?

I believe they are.

If the Prohibition to import Wrought Silk was continued upon the Silk Manufactory from all Countries, except Ireland, do you think that it would be easy for a Revenue Officer to distinguish between the Manufactures of Ireland and other Countries?

I do not believe they could.

Are there any Foreign Silk Manufactures so much cheaper than British Silk Manufactures of the same Kind, that they could bear the Expence of being imported into Ireland, and from thence be brought to England, and yet be introduced into this Country cheap enough to be sold in this Market?

That I cannot say.

[Former Questions and Answers, relating to the Price of Soap, at this Mark, &c Folio 155, read.]

Are you sure that is the Price of Soap in Ireland?

I am not sure, but I was told so.

You take it, then, on common Report.

I do.

Do you know what Duties are paid on the Silk Manufactures of this Country on their being imported into Ireland?

7s. 10d. Irish per lb.

Are you of Opinion, that if a countervailing Duty should be imposed on the Manufacture of Ireland coming in here, to balance the Duty on the Raw Material in both Countries, over and above the Irish Duties, it would be possible for the Irish to send their Silk Manufactures here legally?

I think not.

Why

Why do you think Smuggling would be facilitated by permitting the Importation of Silk Manufactures from Ireland on the Payment of Duties ?

Because it would be then possible for those Goods to come in here, and if the Person did not find Opportunity to run them on Shore, he would then be at Liberty to enter them.

Whether the Person intending to Smuggle has not precisely the same Advantage now, by reporting his Goods for Exportation if he has failed in running them ?

I apprehend that Goods are liable to be seized if they come within a certain Distance from the Shore.

From whom had you that Information ?

I was told so.

Do you remember the Prohibition of Foreign Silk Manufacture about Twenty Years ago ?

I do.

Whether the Duties on French Silks before that Prohibition were not extremely high ?

They were.

Are you of Opinion, that the Prohibition that has subsisted since the passing that Law, has protected the British Market better than the high Duties which subsisted before that Law ?

It certainly has.

If, in Addition to the 7s. 10½d. at present paid upon the Importation of British Wrought Silk into Ireland, a further Duty should be laid, according to the Irish Propositions, to countervail the Duties paid on the Importation of the Raw and Thrown Silks into Ireland, whether, in your Opinion, it would tend materially to diminish our Exportation of Wrought Silk to that Country ?

I do not understand the Question clearly, and therefore I cannot answer it.

If, in Addition to the 7s. 10½d. per lb. now paid upon sending the Wrought Silk into Ireland, a Duty equal to 1s. 10d. per lb. was to be added, would it not tend to lessen the Exportation ?

I think it would.

Can you say by what Means this Country is secured from the Importation of Foreign Linens through Ireland, under Pretence of their being Irish ?

I am not in that Business, and can say nothing of that Matter.

Would not the same Regulations that are sufficient to secure the one secure the other ?

I cannot tell.

Can you say whether the Soap used in the Silk Manufacture is made from Oil or from Tallow ?

I suppose not from Oil, because it would spoil the Silk.

If the same Duties as now exist in England on all Foreign Materials used in the Silk Manufacture, should be laid on the like Materials on their Importation into Ireland, would you in such Case fear any Competition from the Irish Manufacturer ?

I should think not—If the Duties were paid in Ireland which are paid here, I should think then we should do very well.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. RICHARD LEE, Silk Manufacturer in the Handkerchief Branch, in White Gate Street, Bishopsgate Street, London, was called in, and examined.

Do you manufacture mixed Thread and Silk Handkerchiefs, as well as Silk Handkerchiefs alone ?

We manufacture Handkerchiefs mixed of Silk and Cotton together in great Quantities.

What Excise Duty is paid in England on a Dozen of printed Silk Handkerchiefs ?

Four pence per Yard, and Three Five per Cents on that, which on a Dozen full Yard wide is 4s. 6d.

Is there any Excise Duty paid in Ireland on printed Silk Handkerchiefs ?

None at present.

Do you know whether there is any Difference between the Goods in your Branch manufactured in England, and those manufactured in Ireland ?

A very great Difference in some Articles.

Can you state what that Difference is, by any Calculation you have made ?

On a Dozen of Bandanoe Handkerchiefs, weighing One Pound, when made with Raw Silk, there is a Difference in the Duty on the Silk of 2s. 4d.; added to which, an Excise Duty of 4s. 6d. makes a Difference of 6s. 10d. per Dozen, Value 25s. when manufactured in Ireland, which is £.27½ per Cent. in Favour of Ireland.

What

What is the Difference between Goods of the same Kind when manufactured with Thrown Silk ?

A Difference in the Duty of 5*s.* 4*d.* on the Pound ; added to which the Excise Duty of 4*s.* 6*d.* makes 9*s.* 10*d.* in Favour of Ireland on a Dozen, value 25*s.* when manufactured in Ireland—Few are made with Thrown Silk ; most are made with Raw Silk.

What is the Value of a Dozen of Bandanoe Handkerchiefs made with Thrown Silk in England ?

£.2. 8*s.* 4*d.* per Dozen, weighing One Pound.

Do you apprehend, from the Difference between the Price in England and Ireland, any Injury to the fair Trader, and why ?

A great Injury—because the great Advantage that Ireland will have in manufacturing these Goods over England will be an Inducement to encourage Smuggling.

Do you know whether Foreign Silks could be imported into England, through Ireland, cheaper than Silks manufactured in England, of the same Quality, could be sold in England ?

I know of none in my Branch, except Irish Goods, that are imported into this Country ; but India Handkerchiefs which are smuggled, being prohibited.

Are you acquainted with any other Branch of the Silk Trade except that in which you are engaged ?

Not particularly.

If the Silk Handkerchiefs imported from Ireland into England were made subject to a Duty equal to the Difference of the Duties on the Raw Materials, and equal to the Excise Duty paid in this Country, do you think that the Manufacture of this Country would have any Reason to apprehend a Competition ?

If the Duties were to be enforced, and Smuggling prevented, it would not.

Do you know of any Reason, why, if the Duty on the Importation of Irish Goods is imposed, Smuggling should be rendered more easy ?

The great Advantage of the Difference in Price of our Goods, manufactured in Ireland or England, would be so much as to hold out a great Bait to the Smuggler.

Could a Smuggling Vessel easily avoid a Seizure, in case of any Vessel being near her at Sea ?

I cannot tell.

Examined

Examined by Members of the Committee.

Do you remember the Time when the Prohibition of Foreign Wrought Silk was laid on ?

I remember the Time—I was then but young in the Business, and am not competent to say any thing of the Particulars of it.

Do you remember, whether French Wrought Silks were not, before that Prohibition, subject to very high Duties ?

I believe they were.

Have you heard so among the Trade ?

I have.

Do you think that the Prohibition of Foreign Wrought Silk, which now subsists, is a better Protection of the British Silk Manufacture than the high Duties which subsisted before ?

By the Information I have had, a great deal.

Have you heard that in general the Silk Manufactures in this Country increased after the Prohibition ?

I have.

Why do you apprehend that the Irish will smuggle more if these Resolutions should pass into a Law, than they did before ?

When they understand that a free Intercourse is to take place with this Country, I judge they will of course increase their Manufactures—and the vast Advantage they possess will induce them to seek a Market in this Country.

Was you examined before the Committee of Privy Council ?

I was.

On what Day ?

The 17th of February.

Did the Committee of Privy Council state to you the Two Questions referred to them by His Majesty's Order of the 14th of January, at the Time of your Examination ?

I do not know what two Particular Questions are referred to.

Was you, before the Examination, apprised of the Object to which you was going to be examined ?

Yes.

What

What did you understand that Object to be?

Respecting the Intercourse of Trade between Great Britain and Ireland.

By whom was you told that you was to be examined as to the Intercourse of Trade between Great Britain and Ireland?

I was informed the Evening before my coming up before the Lords of the Council, by Mr. Tatlock, the Broker.

Has not the Smuggler the same Temptation now that he will have if these Resolutions pass?

No, I think not.

State why he has not?

The Goods being at present prohibited, they are always liable to be seized when proved to be Irish.

Do you mean that they can be ascertained to be Irish?

I can ascertain many of them.

Can the Revenue Officers, do you think?

Those that I have seen of that Manufacture I think they could, and particularly they have no Stamp, which ours have.

Whether the Person in whose Hands suspected Silks are found, is not obliged by Law to verify that they are of British Manufacture?

I always understood they were.

Whether you know what Number of Silk Handkerchiefs can be contained in a Packet of a Size that would contain Six Pounds of Tea?

Five Dozen at least, if not Six Dozen.

What is the Duty on Six Dozen of Silk Handkerchiefs, including the Excise Duty, and the Duty on the Raw Material?

If they are Yard-square, the Excise Duty is 27s.—The Duty on the Silk is different between the Raw Silk and the Thrown Silk—Raw Silk 18s. supposing each Dozen weighs One Pound.

Whether the Duty on the Raw Material is not paid on the Importation of the Silk?

Before they are received into the Merchant's Warehouse.

At what Stage of the Manufacture is the Excise Duty paid?

After the Goods are manufactured they are sent to our Printers, and I believe the Duty is laid on before they are printed, and the Payments made once a Month.

Whether,

Whether, in Consequence of the Duty collected on Importation, and the Duty collected by the Excise, the British Manufacturer is not liable to a considerable Advance of Money before the Manufacture is sold?

A great Advance.

Whether you would consider any Duty on the Importation of the Irish Silk Manufacture as a countervailing Duty, which did not compensate the Import Duty, the Excise Duty, and the Advance of Money?

None.

Do you think that your Branch of the Manufacture requires any extraordinary Skill?

Very little—it consists chiefly in knowing what Silk to make use of.

Whether any able Pattern Drawers are requisite to carry on your Branch of the Manufacture in Perfection?

A very small Branch requires any Drawing Patterns at all, and that with little Skill.

Whether there is not already in Ireland a Manufacture of Silk Handkerchiefs?

There is.

Is it considerable?

It has been considerable, and I have been lately informed it is now increasing again.

Is the Committee to understand, from your Answer respecting the Duties payable in England on Six Dozen of Handkerchiefs, that the Saving of Duties by clandestinely importing a Quantity of Irish Handkerchiefs, equal in Bulk to Six Pounds of Tea, would be £.2. 5s. Sterling?

It would save that in Duties.

Considering the great Advance of Money to which the British Manufacturer is liable, have you computed how much greater Capital is requisite to carry on the Manufacture in England than in Ireland?

I have computed, on some Articles, that the Irish Manufacturer can carry on the same Business with One Fourth less Capital.

Did you mean, in your Answer about the Duties on Silk Handkerchiefs, that the 27s. is the Excise upon the Six Dozen of Handkerchiefs?

If full Yard-square, it is.

And

And that the 18s. Duty computed on One Pound of Silk is the Duty on One Dozen of Silk Handkerchiefs?

No—The 18s. is the Duty on the Six Dozen, at 3s. the small Pound.

Do not you confound the Drawback with the Duty?

I understood that no Question was put to me on the Subject of the Drawback.

Whether Six Dozen of Yard-square Handkerchiefs weighs but One Pound?

The Answer I made was to Six Dozen weighing One Pound, each Dozen in its Raw State.

Do you know whether Raw Silk worked into Handkerchiefs loses in its Weight.

When it is perfectly finished, a great deal—it loses One Fourth Part.

Do you know the Price in Ireland of Soap used in the Silk Manufactory?

I have lately enquired of a Printer who used a great Deal there; and in last June, about Midsummer, he gave 35s. per Cwt. Irish Currency, for the Sort of Soap he used.

Whether the Silk Handkerchief Branch of Weaving is not necessary to the instructing young People in the more perfect Branches of the Silk Manufacture?

It is very essential for that Purpose.

Whether, if the same Duties as now exist in England on all Foreign Materials used in the Silk Manufacture, should be laid on the Importation of the like Materials into Ireland, and the same Bounties and Drawbacks allowed in both Countries—if in such Case you would fear any Competition from the Irish Manufacture?

I understand the Excise Duties are meant to be included in that Question; and in that Case we judge Ireland will possess some Advantages, but not to a Degree as for us to be dissatisfied.

Whether you in your last Answer do not mean to say, that if the Irish Manufacture was subject to all the same Burthens to which the British Manufacture is subject, that in that Case the British Manufacturer would have no Reason to be dissatisfied?

We should be dissatisfied.

Y

On

On what Ground and Principles do you make the Calculation about One Fourth less Capital being necessary in Ireland than in England?

Upon the Excise, and Difference in Duties.

Is that the sole Ground of your Calculation?

I have made a Calculation of 6s. 10d. Difference upon a Dozen of Silk Handkerchiefs, which will stand the Irish Manufacturer in 25s.—of course it will require One Fourth less Capital on that Calculation to carry on the same Trade.

Whether the Piece of British Manufacture being stampd, and the Piece of Irish Manufacture not stampd, that Distinction may not be sufficient to warrant a Revenue Officer in proceeding to Seizure?

I certainly understand it will.

What were you going to add about Charges in bringing in Six Dozen of Handkerchiefs into England?

When the Question was put, I understood that the whole Amount I mentioned would not be a Profit to the Person that illegally brought the Goods into this Country—I was going to mention that there would of course be Charges and other necessary Incidents on the Importation.

Can you calculate the Amount of those Charges?

I never understood any Thing about it, but I have heard £.7½ per Cent. is the common Expence of Smuggling.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. JAMES MALO, Silk Weaver in the Handkerchief Branch, in Moorfields, London, called in and examined.

In what do you apprehend the Handkerchief Weavers would be more hurt than other Weavers, if the Irish were allowed to import their Silk Handkerchiefs hither?

On Account of the Excise Duties.

Does the Difference of the Raw Silk and the Thrown Silk add to the Advantage of the Irish Manufacturer?

It does—the Duty, together with the Excise, is very near Ten Shillings.

How

How do you prove such a Difference between the Duties here and in Ireland, as to be an Encouragement to Smuggling?

The Smuggler would have a Profit in Smuggling, as to Amount to 10s. on One Pound of Silk which costs 26s. The Raw Silk will be about 6s. 10d. in Favour of a Smuggler upon a Pound of Silk that costs 15s.—this will make near £.45 per Cent. to the Smuggler on the Raw Silk, and £.38 per Cent. on the Thrown Silk.—The 10s. on the Raw Silk, on the Average of 26s. is £.38 per Cent. or thereabouts.

Do you remember passing the Act in 1766, which prohibited the Importation of Foreign Wrought Silks?

Yes.

Were not French Wrought Silks subject to very high Duties before the passing that Act?

They were.

Did not those Duties amount to £.75 per Cent. or thereabouts?

They did.

Do you think that the present Prohibition of Foreign Wrought Silks has proved a better Protection to the British Silk Manufacturer than the high Duties to which Foreign Wrought Silks were subject before the Prohibition?

It has.

Did the British Silk Manufacture increase in Consequence of that Prohibition?

I believe considerably.

Is it not your Opinion that it is easier to carry on a Smuggling Trade in Goods liable on Importation to prohibitory Duties, than in such Goods as are absolutely prohibited?

It is easier to smuggle Goods that are liable to prohibitory Duties, than what are absolutely prohibited.

In what Respects do you think it is more difficult to smuggle Goods that are absolutely prohibited, than those which are under a prohibitory Duty?

Because if they are found on board a Ship, they are seizable directly.

Have you any other Reason for supposing it more difficult than what you have now mentioned?

I have always understood it is so—we experience that in India Ships, with respect to the India Handkerchiefs.

Are you aware that India Handkerchiefs are prohibited?

Yes; but before I understood the Question wrong.—If they attempt to import seizable Goods, they are seized—but Goods that are liable to make an Entry are not seizable, and therefore more easily smuggled.

Have you ever heard that Ships which have Goods on board prohibited to be brought into this Country, may nevertheless come into our Ports, and report those Goods for Exportation?

They may, but I do not know it.

If that should be the Case, should not you imagine that a Ship having Liberty to lie in Port with prohibited Goods on board, after reporting those Goods for Exportation, must have as great Opportunities for Smuggling, as if those Goods were subject to a prohibitory Duty?

The India Ships are in that Predicament.

Is not the Committee to understand, then, that in that Case they would have as good an Opportunity of Smuggling?

If they bribe the Officers, which is often the Case;—where there is a Profit they can do so.

Was you examined by the Committee of Privy Council?

Yes.

On what Day?

I cannot recollect.

Whether, when you was desired to attend the Committee of Privy Council, or during the Examination there, you was told of any Commercial Arrangement that was to take place between Great Britain and Ireland?

I was.

By whom, and at what Time?

About Eleven o'Clock in the Morning.

By whom was you told?

By Mr. Tatlock, who told me Mr. Rose had wrote to him.—Mr. Tatlock and I went together the next Morning.

Whether Mr. Rose's Note mentioned any Thing of the Commercial Arrangement between Great Britain and Ireland?

I did not see it.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

The

The Evidence being closed on the Petition now under Consideration.

The Counsel was heard to observe thereon.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

THE COMMITTEE was moved, That the Petition of the Working Silk Weavers, of Spital Fields, and its Environs, might be read.

And the same was read accordingly; Setting forth, That the Petitioners are exceedingly alarmed at the Resolutions which have passed the Irish House of Commons respecting the Regulation of Trade and Commerce between this Country and Ireland, now under Consideration of the British Parliament, which, if passed into a Law, the Petitioners fear will be very injurious to the Silk Manufactories of this Kingdom, and more particularly so, as the Articles made use of in preparing and manufacturing the Silk Branch are cheaper in Ireland, and the Duty laid thereon much lower, by which Means this Country will be overstocked with Irish Goods smuggled, and which the Petitioners conceive will prove destructive to their Trade; and representing to the House, that in Consequence of the very heavy Duty on Silk, the Petitioners Trade has been in a very declining Situation for several Years, which, with the additional Duty on that Commodity last Session, has so lessened their Home Consumption, that, for want of Employment, the Consequence is, Poverty and Distress are deluging like a Torrent the whole Trade; and, if the Irish Resolutions should pass into a Law, their Trade is irretrievably lost and ruined, and Emigration and Depopulation must be the dreadful Consequence, the only Alternative left to fly from the Iron Jaws of extreme Misery and Want: And that the Petitioners beg Leave to state to the House, that the Nature of their Business is such as obliges them to bear a greater Share of the Burthen of the State than many other Manufacturers, for, although their Wages are much lower than many other Mechanics, yet they are obliged to occupy Houses of greater Rent and Taxes, particularly in the Articles of Window and Candle Tax, which, since the additional Duty laid on those Articles, together with the increasing Parochial Dues, particularly Poor Rates, occasioned by the great Decay of the Silk Trade, that Poverty and Distress pervades the Streets, whereby Numbers are daily obliged to have Recourse to the Relief of a Workhouse, or are obliged to leave their
native

native Country, and thereby depriving the Community of many useful Subjects, and furnishing Foreign Nations with Arts and Myſteries, which, in the End, may prove exceeding prejudicial to the Trade, Commerce, and Revenue of this Country; and therefore the Petitioners beg Leave to lay their Diſtreſſes before this auguſt Aſſembly, the only Saviours that can revive their drooping Trade, humbly imploring, in Behalf of themſelves, and Thouſands yet unborn, that the intended Propoſitions reſpecting Ireland may not paſs into a Law, to the Ruin of their Trade, and that a few of the Petitioners may be permitted to prove the Allegations of this Petition at the Bar of the Houſe, and that they will adopt ſuch Meaſures as they ſhall think moſt conducive for promoting and encouraging the Britiſh Manufacture in all its Branches, whereby Thouſands of His Maſteſty's loyal and dutiful Subjects (Numbers of whom have chearfully fought the Battles of their Country, and are ready to ſtep forth, if Occaſion ſhould require, to face the Enemies of their native Land) will be relieved from the greateſt Miſery and Diſtreſs.

And the Committee being informed, that ſeveral of the ſaid Petitioners (who were ordered to be heard by themſelves, before this Committee, in Support of the ſaid Petition) were attending, they were ſeverally called in to the Bar, and Queſtions were put to them by the Members of the Committee, as follow:

WILLIAM MARCHANT, Working Silk Weaver, in Skinner Street, Biſhopsgate Street, London.

In what particular Branch of the Silk Manufacture are you engaged?

In the Garment Trade; the Trade of Broad Silk.

In what Reſpect do you conſider that the Iriſh Propoſitions, if carried into a Law, would affect or injure your Trade?

We conceive that they will injure our Trade, by Reaſon that at preſent there is a Prohibition exiſting between the Two Countries, and if theſe Propoſitions are carried into a Law, that is to be aboliſhed.—We conceive that the Importation of Iriſh Goods will overrun us very much, inasmuch as they are able, by ſeveral Advantages, to manufacture their Goods cheaper than we can.

What

What do you mean by several Advantages ?

As I stand in this Place in Behalf of the Working Weavers, I shall not trouble the Committee with what relates more to the Master Weavers, but shall confine myself wholly to what concerns the Working Weavers ; and those Advantages are these :— Their Prices of Work in Ireland, according to the Book, are much the same as ours are, but there is a Difference in the Payment of Labour by the Currency, One Shilling English going for 13*d*. and the Weavers in Ireland find their own Articles, or, more properly, Tools, such as Harnesses and Reeds ; and, as we are informed, pay for warpping and entering of their Work, which the Masters in England find their Journeymen ; this renders the Expence of manufacturing Goods to the Master Manufacturer much cheaper than it is in London.—These are the Advantages which I alluded to, with respect to the Working Hands, in which the Difference consists.

Do you believe that a countervailing Duty, to be laid on all Irish Manufactures imported into this Kingdom, would operate as a Prohibition ?

I cannot think it would.

Can you speak as to the general State of the Working Trade in which you are engaged ?

The general State of the Trade is in an affecting Situation : We are many of us out of Employ—some Thousands of Hands have been discharged this last Winter—whole Families have been obliged to go to the Workhouse—and many favourite Hands, which were accounted good Workmen, are limited to so small a Quantity of Work that it is not sufficient to support their Families.—This being the distressed State of the Trade, we are very apprehensive that we cannot bear any Circumstance that tends to lessen it, and distress it more ; and, being apprehensive that the Irish Propositions, if passed into a Law, will tend to hurt us, and take that little Trade from us which we now enjoy, we have been induced humbly to submit this Petition to this Honourable House.

At how much per Cent. do you compute the Price of Labour arising from the Circumstance you have mentioned, that the Irish Master Weaver has over the British Master Weaver ?

About Two Pence in a Shilling.

Whether the Irish Propositions have spread any great Alarm among the Journeymen Weavers in Spital Fields ?

Yes, an universal Alarm throughout the whole Trade.

Do

Do you apprehend, that if the Propositions should pass into a Law, there would be any Probability that any of the Manufacturers of Spital Fields would emigrate into Ireland?

I believe many would—the Irish Weavers who are in Spital Fields are so persuaded of the flourishing Trade they shall draw therefrom, that the universal Talk is of going Home; and I myself have had an Offer made me this Week, that, should that Event take place, and I chose to go to Ireland, I should be provided with Money, and a Promise of Work to keep my Family with; and though, I confess, I should not be very fond of leaving my native Land, yet when I find that there is no Possibility of living in Business in it, I should feel myself induced to follow my Trade where it is to be found.

Do you remember when there was a great Manufacture of Silk Gauze in Spital Fields?

Perfectly well.

What Reminders of that Manufacture are there now in Spital Fields?

It is chiefly dispersed about the Country, and a great deal in Scotland.

Do you know the Reason that that Manufacture has been removed from Spital Fields to different Parts of the Country, and to Scotland?

It was the Effect of a Dispute between the Master Weavers and the Journey-men, before a Book of Prices was in the Trade.

Do you not apprehend that the cheaper Price of Labour in the Country and in Scotland, has been the principal Cause that that Branch of the Manufacture flourishes now in the Parts where it is carried on, and not in Spital Fields?

I do not know whether that may not be the Cause of its flourishing now, but that was not the Cause of its going into Scotland—the Gauze Trade flourished as much Twenty Years ago as it does now, and it bore Double the Price.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

JOHN

JOHN INGLE, a Working Silk Weaver for many Years
in Spital Fields, London.

Do you know what Difference there is in the Wages of a Working Silk Weaver in Ireland and in England ?

I do not know there is any, except in the Value of the Money, and with respect to the Workmen's finding their Tools.

Are there not many Seamen employed in the Weaving Trade in Spital Fields ?

There are.

Do you know that the Silk Gauze Manufacture has gone to Scotland, and been greatly increased there of late Years ?

I do.

Do you think that if the Irish Propositions should pass into a Law, that Encouragement would be thereby given to the London Silk Weavers to settle in Ireland ?

I do.

Have you computed what Advantages the Irish Manufacturer has over the British Manufacturer in the Price of Labour, arising from the Two Circumstances of the Difference of the Value of Money, and the Articles found by the Irish Workmen ?

About 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Lunce, 2^d die Maii 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee were informed, That Mr. Josia Wedgwood attended on the Behalf of the Petition of the Manufacturers of Earthen Ware, in Staffordshire.

And being called in,

He informed the Committee, That he had not signed the Petition, but that he attended in order to give Evidence in Support of the Allegations of the said Petition.

And the said Petition was read; Setting forth, That the Petitioners are greatly interested in the Commercial Regulations now negotiating between Great Britain and Ireland, and are at the same Time fully sensible of the Importance of a fair and equal System being adjusted and finally settled between the Two Kingdoms; that they cannot help being apprehensive, however, that the proposed Resolutions of the Parliament of Ireland, if passed into a Law in their present Form, will be highly injurious to the Interests of the said Manufactory, inasmuch as they tend to lay the Foundations of a future and unequal Competition in our own as well as Foreign Markets, and such as may ultimately prove destructive of this valuable and extensive Branch of National Commerce: And therefore praying, That they may be heard, by themselves and their Counsel, against the proposed Resolutions of the Parliament of Ireland passing into a Law, and that such Alterations may be made therein as to the House shall seem meet, in order that, whilst every reasonable and even liberal Encouragement and Assistance is afforded to the Trade and Manufactures of the Sister Kingdom, a due and prudential Regard may be had to the Commercial Interests of our own.

Mr. Wedgwood then stated to the Committee, That having lately had an Illness, which would make it difficult for him to speak

Speak for any Length of Time ; he therefore desired to deliver in Writing what he had to offer to the Committee, that it might be read.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ; he was asked,

What Objections have you, on the Subject of your own Manufacture, to state to the Irish Propositions ?

And then he was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ; he was asked,

Have you seen and read the Irish Resolutions ?
I have.

Do you think they will be prejudicial to your Manufacture, and in what Manner ?

And the Witness desiring to know whether he might make use of some Notes which he had in his Hand ;

He was asked,

Are those Notes of your own making ?

They are my own Notes.

And then the said Notes, at the Request of the Witness, and by the Permission of the Committee, were read for him by the Clerk, standing by him at the Bar, and are as follows :

THE Injuries which the Manufacturers of Earthen Ware are apprehensive of receiving from the Irish Resolutions, if adopted and ratified by the British Parliament, may be comprised under Two Heads—that of our Home Trade, including Ireland ; and our Foreign or Export Trade.

1. The HOME TRADE.

The Irish Manufacturer has already many Advantages over the English ; which, though they may not have any great or immediate Operation under the present Arrangement of the Two Kingdoms, must, when the Advantages of the new System shall be superadded,

peradded, give him almost a Certainty of supplying his own Country with Earthen Ware, and a great Chance of sharing the English Market with us.

Amongst these Advantages, Cheapness of Labour is not the least. On this Subject much has been said: The Fact itself has been controverted by some; and where the Fact has been admitted, the *Proportion* of that Cheapness has been very differently stated. It being very material to have this Point settled with a tolerable Degree of Accuracy, I hope the Committee will indulge me with a few Words upon it.

We cannot come to the Knowledge of the real Price of Labour in *Ireland*, by being told what it is in *Dublin*, and much less from learning what Wages particular Artisans may demand there for working upon any particular Branches of Business not fully established; for upon this Principle I could prove, that Labour is dearer in the particular Manufacture of any other Potter in *Staffordshire* than in mine; because, when a Workman has been a few Years with me, and thereby learnt my Methods of working, he will receive from others Offers of higher Wages than I can afford to give him; notwithstanding which, the real Fact is, that I pay £.20 or £.30 per Cent. more, in general, for the same Species of Work, than, I believe, any other Manufacturer.

But I apprehend that, in order to form a just Comparison between the general Rate of Wages in Two Countries, we should learn the Price given in each for that Species of Labour to which the natural Faculties of every Man are equal and applicable. And therefore, in the present Case, our Enquiry should be, what the Farmer pays, upon an Average, for Day Labour, in both Countries; and this, from the best Information I can obtain is, in *Ireland*, 6*d.* Irish Money, and in *England* 1*s.* 2*d.* Sterling. And we cannot reasonably doubt, but that there will be nearly a proportionate Difference of Wages between the *Manufacturers* of the Two Countries, as there is now between the *Day Labourers*, whenever the Manufactures are fully established in both, and Apprentices and others, Natives of *Ireland*, have learnt the Arts of manufacturing, in sufficient Numbers, and so completely as to be independent of their First Teachers.

It might be difficult, in the Midst of the Disputes now subsisting, to obtain impartial Evidence upon the Facts controverted: But if we can find a Man of Observation, who, before these Disputes arose, had made particular Enquiries into this Subject upon the Spot, and given us the Results of them, these, so far as they are Facts, and not merely Opinions, must have great Weight.—Mr. Young seems to be such an Authority; and in treating on this Subject,

Subject, in his *Tour in Ireland*, he makes the Average Wages of a Labourer, in 1777, to be $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ a Day the Year round, and the Wages in England for the same Species of Labour nearly Three Times as much. And this he takes from the concurrent Information of the Gentlemen in Ireland whom he visited.

Mr. Young, indeed, gives it as his *Opinion*, that, notwithstanding the *nominal* Difference of Wages, Labour is really as dear in Ireland as in England, on Account of the Inferiority of the Irish Labourers. There may at present be some Foundation for this Opinion to a certain Degree; but from my own Experience of Irish Labourers, which has not been small, I am persuaded he has carried this Idea too far.—But, admitting the *present Inferiority* in the full Extent he states it, we cannot suppose that it will long continue so, when the Resolutions are passed, and Ireland becomes filled with emigrant Manufacturers from England; for these will certainly shame, and even force, the Irish Artisans out of their present lazy and slow Methods of manufacturing, and convince them, by their own Example, not only of the Possibility, but the Advantages of such an Alteration. And after this, as both one and the other can undoubtedly live cheaper there than in England, the Price of manufacturing Labour will as certainly, in Process of Time, fall to a proportionately lower Standard. Besides, Mr. Young is stating the Inferiority of the Irish in *that Species* of Labour which depends upon the Exertions of muscular Strength; and seems to apprehend, that their Deficiency in this Respect may arise from the Quality of their Food, or their Indulgence in Spirituous Liquors. But there are few Branches of Manufacture that depend so much upon muscular Strength, as on Quickness of Apprehension and Activity of Limbs; and in these Qualities, the Irish, perhaps, will not suffer much by a Comparison with our own Workmen.

It may perhaps be objected, that Wages will rise in Ireland in Proportion as the People acquire an Increase of Employment and of Opulence. But this Objection admits the Fact *now* to exist, and the Advantage to operate during the Progress of that Rise: Nor does it appear how this *Increase* of Employment and Opulence is to be gained to Ireland, under the Irish Propositions, otherwise than by a nearly proportionate *Decrease* of the British Manufactures. And this apprehended Rise of Wages must appear less likely to take place, when we consider that Ireland, having no Wars to carry on, nor Colonies to maintain or protect, instead of being apprehensive of new Taxes or Excise Laws, may reasonably hope that the few she now has will be lowered; because, with the
Increase

Increase of her Population and Trade, the Produce of her present Excise and Customs must increase in Proportion.

It appears, therefore, that the Cheapness of Labour in Ireland must give the Pottery in that Kingdom a very considerable Advantage over ours; more especially as the Value of this particular Manufacture consists almost wholly in Labour: When to this is added, that the Raw Materials are likewise cheaper, nearly in an equal Proportion, the Advantage of Ireland, in the manufacturing Part, becomes decided and uncontrovertible.

The principal Raw Materials, of which our present Earthen Wares are made, are Clay and Flint Stones: The former Ireland has of her own, and, as I am told, of the best Quality; but if this should not be so, she has been, and therefore no Doubt but she can again be, supplied with it from the same Places that we ourselves are; and this at little more than Half the Expence which it costs us when delivered in Staffordshire: The latter (Flint Stones) she has much cheaper still; as we now fetch them to the Potteries in Staffordshire from the Shores which surround Ireland.

With respect to Coals, the other essential Article for this Manufacture, there is such Plenty of them already discovered in various Parts of Ireland, that there can be little Doubt of their being, in the Course of a few Years, as cheap, at least in particular Districts, as they are with us.

My Authorities for the Existence, Abundance, and Cheapness of the Raw Materials necessary for carrying on an Earthen Ware Manufactory in Ireland, are;—Persons who have been on the Spot, who have been in the Collieries and Coal Pits themselves, with a View to examine them;—Persons who have had Specimens of the Clay sent to them here for Trial;—and the Evidence of Mr. Evans (Engineer of the Grand Canal making across Ireland) which was laid before the Irish House of Commons in 1783.

Mr. Evans says, that “the Kilkenny Collieries, if properly worked, which is not now the Case, are capable of producing 300,000 Tons of Culm Yearly; and that this might be carried by the Canal, and sold at the Distance of Forty Miles, for 1s. 6d. a Barrel” (Four hundred Weight) which is 4½d. per Hundred Weight; so that these Coals are cheaper, after being carried Forty Miles, than our Coals at the Potteries in Staffordshire, when carried only Two or Three Miles.

At Lough-Allen, he states, that there are “Collieries equal in Quantity, if properly worked, to the Supply of the whole Kingdom; and in Quality equal, if not superior, to the best Whitehaven Coals.”—That they mean to work these Collieries properly

properly now, is evident from their sending to Messrs. Boulton and Watt to erect their improved Steam Engine upon them, which those Gentlemen are now doing.

He likewise states, that along with this fine Colliery at Lough-Allen, on the Banks of the Grand Canal, less than Thirty Miles from Dublin, "there is Flint for making Flint Ware, Clays for "Potteries, and Pipe Clay for making Staffordshire Ware."

To these Advantages we must add the *Premiums* given by the Irish for the Encouragement of new Manufactures; which, in One Instance (an Attempt to establish a Manufactory of Queen's Ware in Dublin) amounted to no less than One Third the Value of all the Goods made at that Manufactory, with the Addition of £.150 for the First Table Service made there.

We must likewise take into the Account the Carriage, Freight, Loss by Breakage, and the Duties upon our Ware, on its Importation from Staffordshire into Ireland; amounting, all together, to £.40 per Cent.—All which must operate as a Bounty of so much per Cent. in favour of the Irish Earthen Ware, and against the Importation of our own.

Besides all these, the Irish are in Possession of a very powerful Engine, not generally known, which they can at Pleasure direct against the Importation of our Ware, and for the Protection and Encouragement of their own Potteries; I mean, the Difficulties which they can create, and by which, to answer a particular Purpose, they can render it so troublesome, so tedious, expensive, and even hazardous to the Goods themselves, as shall amount almost to a Prohibition of any Importation at all, especially of the cheaper Kinds. And this can be done at their Custom Houses, without the Officers appearing to depart from the Line of their Duty in any culpable Degree.

They can, for Instance, under the pretended Suspicion of Contraband Goods being contained in the Crates of Earthen Ware, unpack and expose every Piece of Ware on their Quays; which will unavoidably be attended with considerable Loss in Breakage, and the Goods must be re-packed, with the same Care and Attention as at first, before they can be taken from thence, and lodged with Safety in the Importer's Stores; so that upon Fifty or Sixty Crates of Ware, they can occasion Ten or Fifteen Days Attendance from the Importer, to clear them from the Custom House, and get them into his Warehouse; which, upon low-priced Earthen Wares, is more Trouble and Expence than the Profits on them will bear.

They likewise can insist upon such minute Descriptions in the Entry, of the *Species* and even *Colours* of the Wares, as renders it extremely

extremely hazardous for the Importer to enter them at all; as he (not having seen the Goods packed up) cannot always answer for their agreeing exactly with such Description; and if that should not be the Case, they are liable to Forfeiture.

At present these Difficulties seldom happen, as the Irish have no Temptation to obstruct our Imports, unless perhaps from some Piques of the Officers in particular Cases. But whenever they shall have an infant Manufactory of the same Kind of their own to encourage and support, (and we have Reason to believe that it will not be long before that happens) there cannot be a Doubt of their throwing every legal Impediment in the Way of the Importation of our Wares.

To make some Compensation for the many Advantages which Ireland has over us, and as a Protection to us against her Competition with us in our Market, we have at present a Duty of £.41. 16s. per Cent. upon the Importation of Irish Earthen Wares into England: But this the Resolutions will wrest out of our Hands; and we must exchange this Security of £.41. 16s. for the diminished one of £.15. 10s. per Cent. only.

We likewise possess at present the Power of restraining all Commercial Abuses when grown to an Extreme, by making any necessary Alterations in the System of Duties respecting Irish and Foreign Linens;—but this necessary Power is, by the new Regulations, to be given up *for ever*—and this too at a Period when, by the late acknowledged Independence of the Irish Legislature and Government, this Country retains no Controul either over the Irish Officers of Revenue, or over Abuses which may, through other Channels, be attempted and countenanced against the just Interests of the British Manufacturers.

I am very sensible, that almost any particular Privileges ought to be given up to public Necessity. But whilst we might reasonably have expected that Ireland, contented with the Advantages which she already enjoys over us, would have admitted more of our Manufactures, and Earthen Wares amongst the rest, *Duty-free* into her Ports (for we admit annually more than Sixty Times the Quantity of her Manufactures *Duty-free* that she does of ours)—instead of this, when we find that new Advantages are demanded—that those proposed by the new Arrangement are all so evidently on her Side—and that we are called upon to give up such Protections as we are now in Possession of, without any public Necessity being pointed out to us—we cannot avoid complaining of what appears to us to be a Hardship, great in its immediate Effect, and dangerous in its future Consequences. And it is the more peculiarly striking, as
Ireland,

Ireland under this pretended final Arrangement, is to be left in full and permanent Possession of many present Advantages, both in the Supply of her internal Markets, and in her Competition with the British Manufacturer at Foreign Markets, as she is still further to retain the very great Advantage of importing the Raw Materials of many principal Manufactures, under Duties much below what are payable by the People of this Kingdom.

The Difficulties which must attend a free and full Participation of internal Markets between the Two Kingdoms, unaccompanied by any Union either in the System of Government or of Taxation, and where the People of the One Country remain highly taxed, and those of the other comparatively without any Taxes, are felt and acknowledged. But if, upon due Deliberation, it should be the Wisdom of the Legislature to make that full and free Participation, notwithstanding such Circumstances, neither the Parties concerned in the present Petition, nor, I am persuaded, the other British Manufacturers, would persist in Opposition to the Measure, if they saw it at all possible to obtain sufficient and reasonable Securities to their respective Interests; in which any sudden Convulsion would not only be ruinous to *them*, but likewise proportionately so to the *Population, Revenues, Landed Interest, Naval Strength, Security, and Public Credit* of this Kingdom.—Still, however, they contend, that upon such a Revolution those specific and separate Advantages, of the Extent and Importance above described, ought not to be retained by Ireland, upon any principle of Equality, Justice, or Expediency.

HAVING thus submitted to the Committee my Apprehensions from the Irish Propositions, with respect to the Home Trade in that Article on Behalf of which I have the Honour of attending this Committee; I now proceed to

2. THE FOREIGN TRADE.

And here I request Permission to give a short View of the Value of this Manufacture, as a National Object to Great Britain; more especially as its Extent and consequent Importance do not appear to be generally and sufficiently known.

For this Purpose we must look far beyond the particular Spot where the Goods are ultimately manufactured, where the Raw Materials, brought from distant Parts of this Island, are worked up, and finished into Merchantable Ware: For although the manufacturing Part only of this Business gives Bread to at least Fif-

teen or Twenty thousand People, *that*, considered alone, will nevertheless appear a small Object, when we extend our View to the immense Quantity of Inland Carriage it creates throughout England in its Raw Materials, and goods when manufactured;—to the great Numbers employed in the extensive Collieries for this Manufactory;—to the still greater Numbers employed in raising and preparing the Raw Materials in several distant Parts of England, from near the Land's End, in Cornwall One Way, along different Parts of the Coast, Falmouth, Teignmouth, Exeter, Poole, Gravesend, and the Norfolk Coast; and the other Way, to Wales, Biddeford, and the Irish Coast;—with the coasting Vessels, which being employed at the proper Seasons in the Newfoundland Fishery, carry these Materials Coastwise to Liverpool and Hull, to the Amount of many Thousand Tons Yearly, at Times when they would otherwise be laid up idle in their respective Harbours;—and the further Conveyance of these Raw Materials from Liverpool and Hull, by River and Canal Navigations, to One of the most Inland Situations in the Kingdom, the Potteries in Staffordshire;—to the Re-conveyance of the Goods, when manufactured, by the same circuitous Canal, River, and Coastwise Navigations, to the different Ports of this Island, where they are ultimately shipped for every Foreign Market to which they have Access—From these Considerations we may form some Idea of the Extent of this Manufacture in its various Branches, and its Consequence to the Maritime and the Landed, as well as the Commercial Interests of this Kingdom.

But we must not stop even here, in estimating its National Utility; for this Manufacture is attended with some other advantageous Circumstances, peculiar perhaps to itself, such as;—1. That every Ton of Raw Materials employed in it, produces Three or Four Tons of manufactured Goods for Shipping, the Freight being then estimated by Measure, and not by Weight;—2. That Five Sixths of the whole Produce of this Manufacture are exported to Foreign Markets;—and, 3. That scarcely a Vessel leaves any of our Ports without more or less of this cheap, bulky, and therefore valuable Article, to this maritime Island.

From these Considerations may an individual, who has had some Share in raising this Manufacture to its present Degree of National Importance, and who is impressed with the Idea of its being still in its Infancy, compared with what I may arrive at, if not interrupted in its Growth—may he be indulged with the favourable Opinion of this Honourable House, with respect to any active Steps he may have taken in endeavouring to remove the Difficulties which it already labours under, and to ward off the further Dangers with which it is threatened, with regard to Foreign Markets; which Difficulties and Dangers will, in his Apprehension

Apprehension, be greatly increased by the Resolutions passing into a Law.

In Sweden, Denmark, Brandenburg, Prussia, France, and Portugal, this Manufacture is already prohibited. In the last-mentioned Kingdom, indeed, I am told there is a late Order for its Admission, but upon a Duty of Four Times the Value of the Goods.—In the Austrian Netherlands it is subject to a Duty of 4*d*. per Pound Weight, including Packages; which, on so cheap an Article, amounts nearly to a Prohibition,

The King of Prussia has also laid a Double Impost on this Manufacture not long since; one on going into Dantzick, and another payable on the same Goods on the Vistula, in their Passage from Dantzick to Poland.

A late Edict of the Emperor, for the Prohibition of all our Manufactures, must give the finishing Blow to our Exports into his Dominions; and Germany has hitherto been One of our best Markets, next perhaps to America, for our Wares.

The Empress of Russia has lately added a Duty of £.30 per Cent. to One of £.10 per Cent. before imposed upon our Earthen Wares, through the whole Province of Livonia.—And if this be the Language of Sovereigns to each other in Commercial Regulations, we may reasonably conclude, that it is to the same Cause which produced the Emperor's Edict that we owe a Duty of £.40 per Cent. upon our Wares through all the Provinces of the Russian Empire.

In Spain, to which our Exports have been very considerable, an Impost has lately taken place, more than equal to the Value of our cheaper Species of Earthen Ware.

And in Saxony our Wares pay a very high Duty.

With so many Foreign Markets more than half shut, or finally closed against us, the Prospect with respect to our Export Trade, and of a future Commercial Intercourse with those States and Empires, cannot but be very gloomy; and our only Hope of Relief must arise from a Probability of their being opened to us again by more favourable Commercial Regulations. It is therefore with the utmost Concern that we understand by the Ninth Resolution, that no such favourable Commercial Treaties if that should pass into a Law, are ever likely to take place betwixt this Kingdom and any other European State: For we can entertain no Hope of such Alterations being made in our Favour in any Commercial Treaty, on other Terms than those of a liberal and well-founded Reciprocity of Advantages between the

contracting Parties; and such, it is apprehended, it will be impossible for this Nation to accede to under the before-mentioned Resolution. Suppose, for Instance, it was with Russia that Great Britain was now negotiating a Commercial Treaty, and the Empress's Minister should point to the Ninth Resolution, and ask its full Intent and Meaning, as it might hereafter affect the Two Parties;—must not the British Negotiator acknowledge, that not only the present high Duties must for ever remain upon all Russian Linens, with a total Exemption of Irish Linens from any Duty upon Importation into Great Britain; but farther, that if Ireland should at any future Time be able to supply us with Hemp and Flax likewise, or any other Produce or Manufacture with which Russia now supplies this Market, we must also lay such a Duty upon each of those Articles, from Russia or elsewhere, as may afford an effectual Preference to the Importation of similar Articles of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of Ireland?—And what Kind of Commercial Treaty either Russia, or any other European State in like Circumstances, would conclude with this Nation, this Honourable Committee can best determine.

All the Arguments that have already been brought to shew the Disadvantages of the English, compared with the Irish Manufacturers, in the Home Consumption, apply equally to their supplanting us in Foreign Markets.

But there is another Mass of Disadvantages, which the People of Ireland do not feel, but which is no small Burthen on the English Manufacturer, as it unavoidably makes a Part, and no inconsiderable one, of the Price of all the Articles of his Export, and of which he cannot have any Drawback on Exportation;—I here allude to the various Taxes of our heavy-burthened Country, which ultimately fall upon the Consumer, down to the meanest Artisan or Labourer, and consequently make a Part of the Price of such Labour, and the Produce thereof. If the present Revenue, therefore, is by any Means diminished to a certain Degree, new Taxes must be laid, to make up that Deficiency; and those Taxes, operating in the same Manner as the present ones, must still more enhance the Price of the Articles of our Export Trade, and to such a Degree, perhaps, as to prevent our being able to meet our more favourably circumstanced Competitors; and the Earthen Ware Manufactory will suffer more than any other, as the Value of its Produce consists almost wholly in Labour, and not less than Five Sixths of the Whole is exported to Foreign Markets,

That the Irish Resolutions have a Tendency to diminish, nay, that

that they certainly will diminish, our present Revenue, in a most alarming Degree, and to the Distress, if not the utter Ruin, of the fair Trader, cannot be doubted by any one who reads the Reports of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, and the Commissioners of Excise: And many other Openings for Contraband Trade will be made, which are not mentioned in those Reports.

When to these are added the farther Burthens to which we may be liable, in the Support and Protection of our various distant Possessions, which will be the Source of Wealth and Strength to the Irish Nation as much as to ourselves, without their participating in the concomitant Expences, the immense Advantages which the Irish Nation and Manufacturer will have over this Country, and its exhausted Inhabitants, must be too obvious to escape the Notice of any one who thinks upon these Subjects, and must throw a rapid Increase of the Export Trade into the Hands of the Irish, with the unavoidable Consequence—a nearly equal Diminution of our own.

There are many other Circumstances of great Disadvantage, from which we shall not be able to relieve ourselves; and the Resolutions are altogether defective in the Regulations necessary for preventing their taking place.

Thus, in the Article of *Bounties*, there is no Stipulation to prevent their being given, by the different Societies formed for that Purpose, and by the Irish Parliament itself, to any Extent upon their Export Trade; and we have a Right to suppose, that what a Competitor can, he will effect in his own Favour.—The Irish, then, being left at full Liberty in this Respect, will probably direct the whole Force of those Bounties against some One of the particular Branches of our Export Trade, Leather, Iron, Earthen Ware, &c. whichever they shall first select for the Object of their Competition; and having, by such united Force, driven that particular Manufacture out of the Foreign Market, and placed their own in its Stead, they may then attack another, and another, and so on, to any Extent that their Interest shall suggest: For they will be as free from the Fears of any Check we shall have left over their Commerce, as they will be from any Apprehensions of our being either able or willing to meet them in a Warfare of Bounties.

Another Source of Danger to our Manufactures and Export Trade will be—the *Emigration* of our Workmen and Artisans to the rival Works in Ireland: For, from the Vicinity of the Two Countries, this may be effected in the Course of a few Days; and from this Circumstance we have more to fear, in the Formation of
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an effectual and speedy Competition, than from any other, for as much may be done by this Means in the Course of a Year or Two, as could be brought about in an age, without such assistance. We have some Security against the Emigration of our Workmen into Foreign Nations, as the Men, their Aiders and Abettors, on attempting to emigrate, are liable to severe Forfeitures and Imprisonments; but to Ireland they may pass as freely as from One Part of this Kingdom to another, and with the Advantage too of knowing, that though there is a Separation of Governments between the Two Kingdoms, there is a Similarity of Language, Laws, and Climate, and no peculiar Mark of Distinction, except in the Proportion of Taxes, and the consequent Interference of Excise Officers.—And as it appears from some late Evidence given to this Honourable House, that the Glass Manufactory has by like Means been carried into Ireland, and brought to a State of Perfection there, which enables them not only to maintain a successful Competition with us at Foreign Markets, but likewise to import Glass into this Kingdom—it remains no longer a mere Speculation, that the same event may in a very little Time take place with regard to our Manufacture also.

May I be permitted to state another Evil, which must, in my Apprehension take place, from the Situation in which this Country will be placed by the Irish Resolutions, but in which (if that can be any Alleviation of the Distress) the Manufacturers of Earthen Ware will only share equally with every other Manufacturer, and every other Inhabitant of this Island?—A Time will come, when Great Britain will be called upon to defend her distant Colonies and Provinces, and even Ireland itself, from Foreign Enemies; and if, in that critical Moment, she should fail in the arduous Task, from having before stripped herself of those Sources of Wealth and Strength which alone could enable her to perform it, and delivered them over to another, who is neither under any Obligation, or able, if she was willing, to do it for her—what our Situation would then be, this Honourable House will best judge.

Such, it is apprehended, must be the Consequences of the Irish Resolutions passing into a Law: And as all those Resolutions must stand or fall together, no Alternative remained, but that, as faithful Friends to the most essential Interest of our Country, we should pray, as we have done, that the Wisdom of this Honourable House may deliver us from all the complicated Evils which we see the justest Reason to apprehend—by rejecting them all together,

Then

Then Mr. Wedgwood was asked,
Have you considered, or are you informed, under these Resolutions, what Duty Irish Earthen Ware will be subjected to when imported into this Country?

I understand it to be as stated in my former Answer.

What is that?
£.15 10s. per Cent.

Do you not apprehend, that the Irish would be able to enter into a Competition with us in Foreign Markets on better Terms than in our own?

I believe they would.

Have they entered into a great Competition with us in the Foreign Market already?

In the Manufacture of Earthen Ware they have not.

As you have stated, that Five Sixths of the Earthen Ware manufactured in this Country is exported, do you not apprehend that they have had a sufficient Temptation already to enter into a Competition with us in the most extensive Market, and where they would meet us on these advantageous Terms, if they were in Truth able to rival us in this Manufacture?

Whatever the Temptation may have been, the Time which I understand they have had for the Liberty of exporting Earthen Ware to our Colonies in the West Indies has not been sufficient for that Purpose; nor have they the Manufacturers of the finer Kind among them at present.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Mercurii,

Mercurii, 4^o die Maii 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House, on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That Mr. Richard Sharp, a Manufacturer in the Stuff Trade, in the County of Southampton, and one of the Persons who had signed the Petition of the Manufacturers and Wool Staplers of the County of Southampton, referred to this Committee, attended; he was called in.

And the said Petition of the Manufacturers and Wool Staplers of the County of Southampton, was read; setting forth, That the Petitioners are sensible of the Advantages which would arise, as well to England as to Ireland, from the Settlement of a permanent and mutual Treaty of Commerce, and are therefore far from wishing to impede Government in making such a Treaty; but, apprehending the Resolutions of the Irish Parliament by no Means calculated to produce so desirable an Event, the Petitioners judge it expedient to communicate their Sentiments before a final Regulation takes place, having too high an Opinion of the House to suppose they will promote the Establishment of those Resolutions, unless they can be regulated in such a Manner as will place the Interest of both Countries on a fair and equitable Footing: The Petitioners are of Opinion, that the Third, Fourth, Seventh, and Ninth Resolutions of the Irish House of Commons are very incompetent to produce the much-desired Plan of Equalization, but, on the contrary, are likely to undermine British Manufactures; and that the Mode proposed of equalizing Duties, by laying them on, or taking them off, specific Articles, will not be productive of reciprocal Advantages: The Petitioners conceive it may not be improper to state, that there is a very large Quantity of Irish Yarn imported Annually into this Country, the Introduction of which they apprehend of great Service, as it furnishes Employ for a Number of their Poor; but, if the Resolutions pass into a Law in their present Form, they imagine that Ireland will work up her own Materials, and, from the Inequality
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of Taxation, &c. will not only supplant them in Foreign Markets, but also in the Home Trade, the fatal Result of which appears too obvious: The Price of Labour and Provisions being so much lower in Ireland than in England, the Petitioners think it necessary, in order to produce Equality, that the Situation of the Two Countries should be strictly compared, in order that such Regulations may be made as will promote the general Welfare of both; and the Petitioners, having impartially investigated the Irish Propositions, are unanimous in their Opinion, that, if they pass into a Law, it will be exceedingly injurious to all the Manufacturers of Low Woollens and Worsted Stuffs, and think it necessary to remark, that Irish Wool is particularly well adapted for making such Goods, and, as there is a large Consumption of them in this Country (owing to the Number of Poor employed in its many extensive Manufactures, who are chiefly cloathed therewith) they suppose the Sister Kingdom will seek a Market here for these Articles, and will inevitably supplant them in the Home Trade, unless such a Duty be imposed on the Importation of Irish Stuffs and coarse Woollens, as will put it out of the Power of Ireland to meet them on unequal Terms in their own Markets; and that the chief Articles the Petitioners manufacture are Worsted Stuffs, coarse Woollens, and Yarn for Sale, which being wrought with Wool the Produce of our own Land, and considered as the Staple Commodity of this Kingdom, they think it would be very impolitic to give Ireland the Preference in these Branches, especially as her exports already so much exceed those of this Country, and she enjoys such manifest Privileges in the Linen Trade; and that the Petitioners, being well satisfied that the Duties proposed to be laid on the Importation of Irish Stuffs and coarse Woollens are not sufficient to protect the Home Trade, with Grief and Concern observe, that a Ratification of the Irish Resolutions will not only prove injurious to most Branches of the English Manufacture, but will also be detrimental to the Landed Interest, and ultimately tend to exalt Ireland, at the Expence of Britain, and destroy those Springs of Emulation and Improvement which arise in a Commercial Country, and are essential to the manufacturing Interest of this Kingdom: And the Petitioners therefore hope, That the House will remove the Subjects of their Apprehensions, by such Alterations and Modifications as to the House shall seem meet.

A Petition of Harry Easton and Richard Sharp, Woollen and Worsted Manufacturers, on Behalf of themselves and many others with whom they have joined in a Petition to this House, was also read; Setting forth, That the Petitioners having presented

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their Petition to the House, praying, That in the present Commercial Treaty now about to be settled with Ireland, such Restrictions and Modifications might be made in the Propositions from the Irish House of Commons, as to preclude this Country, and the County of Southampton in particular, from any just Cause of Complaint, and therein stating their particular Grievances, the Petitioners, in their said Petition, omitted to pray that they might be heard, by themselves or Counsel, at the Bar of the House, against the Propositions mentioned in the said Petition being carried into a Law : And therefore praying, That they may be heard, by themselves or their Counsel, upon the Matter of the said Petition, before the Resolutions therein specified meet their final Adjustment.

And the said Mr. Richard Sharp having informed the Committee, That the said Petitioners did not intend to be heard by their Counsel, he was directed to state to the Committee what he had to say in Support of the said Petition.

And he was heard accordingly.

And then several Questions were put to him by the Members of the Committee.

Mr. RICHARD SHARP.

What is the Average Price of Labour paid by you ?

From a general Sketch we have taken, we suppose we pay Men from about 7s. 6d. to 8s. per Week ; the Women about 3s. 2d. per Week, or from 3s. to 3s. 6d. ; Girls, we suppose, about 1s. 6d. on an Average. It is impossible to make a clear Statement of it in a large Manufactory.

What Number of People are employed in the Manufacture at Rumsey ?

I should suppose about 3,000 or 3,500—many have left off Trade—there used to be more.

What Number do you imagine are employed in the County of Southampton at large ?

On the most moderate Computation, 12,000.

Do you think that the Irish Resolutions would be injurious to the Worsted Manufacture in Hampshire?

I have no Doubt at all about it.

Is the Consumption of the Manufacture principally confined at Home?

It is—our Exports are very flat indeed.

In what Degree, or in what Manner, will the Irish Resolutions affect the Trade at large in which you are engaged?

By permitting Irish Manufactures of the same Fabrick in Opposition to our own, which have never before been permitted in this Kingdom.

Can you specify any particular Disadvantage that would arise to the Worsted Manufacture of this Kingdom by those Irish Propositions passing into a Law?

They will open a Door to the Introduction of Irish Stuff Manufactures into Great Britain, and then deprive our Poor of Employment, and effectually cause a Stagnation of the Trade.

Why do you think, from the Colour of the present Propositions, that the Irish will be able to undersell you in your own Market?

Because their Labour is so much lower, and their Provisions so much cheaper, as to enable them, though they give considerably more for their Wool than we do, after allowing to themselves and their Factors a very desirable Profit, greatly to undersell us—adding to this their almost total Exemption from internal Taxes.

Were the Manufacturers of the County of Hants unanimous in their Opinion on this Subject?

There was not One opposing Voice, and a perfect Unanimity prevailed at their Meeting.

Was you at the Western Meeting for considering the Irish Propositions at Salisbury?

I was.

Inform the Committee what you know of that?

It will be very proper, previous to informing the Committee on that Subject, to say, that there is an Annual Fair held at Salisbury, to which most of the West Country Clothiers resort.—It happened, about the Time when this Fair was held, that there was a Rumour of the Irish Propositions abroad, and some Indications were made known of the alarming Consequences that

might follow, if they passed into a Law. In consequence of this, the Manufacturers of Salisbury, about a Week before the Fair, held a Meeting amongst themselves; and agreed, by their Resolutions, to require Mr. John Ainstie, of Devizes, (Chairman of the Committee for the Purpose of preventing the smuggling of Wool) to call a Meeting for the Purpose of investigating the Irish Propositions—the Meeting was publicly made known: Mr. Ainstie complied, and attended; and on the Evening of the 4th of April, the Fair Day, a considerable Number was gathered together.—I would beg to state, that although there were a considerable Number, they were not all, nor hardly Two-Thirds of them, Manufacturers; it was quite an heterogenous Body—there were Shop-keepers, Journeymen, and Apprentices, and some that bore not so honourable a Title.—It happened at this Meeting, that even the Manufacturers themselves, who formed by far the most august Part of the Body, came almost ignorant of the Propositions—few had read them, and a much less Quantity, when they heard them read, understood them.—As soon as the Room was filled, a Chairman was elected, who immediately proceeded to the reading the Propositions, that he might take the Sense of the Meeting thereon. After the Resolutions had passed by a very doubtful Majority, Ten out of Twelve of which, as I believe from what I afterwards heard, knew nothing of the Matter, it was proposed by Mr. Ainstie, the Chairman, who I suppose considered that after having done some Persons a very great Advantage, he ought in Justice to confer a small one upon us; I say he proposed, that the Stuff Manufacturers of Hampshire, or elsewhere, who were there, or were not there, might be left out.—On which a young Man, who made himself remarkably busy in the Affair that Evening, immediately declared, “If that is done, Mr. Chairman, you will effectually undo all we have been doing.”—Unhappily for us there were scarcely any Persons present concerned in the Stuff Trade so well acquainted with the Propositions as to declare their Sentiments on the Subject, or make any contrary Motion when one was proposed: So, owing either to the Intricacy of the Propositions, or the Dullness of the Readers, there was no Opposition made at all to that last extraordinary Motion.—In consequence of which, the last Motion which was made, was “Thanks to the Chairman,” as there were no Doubts of his deserving it; for I am sure he attended more to the Manufacturer’s Interests than (to their Shame be it spoken) they did themselves.—And the only Consequence of the Meeting, which to my Knowledge came afterwards, was sincere and heavy Repentance.

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From whence is the Yarn of which your Manufacture is composed principally supplied?

All we use is combed and spun by ourselves, or in the same County; what we have bought elsewhere is not worth mentioning.

Do you know (in case the Irish Propositions should pass) what will be the Duty payable on the Worsted and Woollen Stuffs in which you are concerned, upon their Importation from Ireland into Great Britain?

About 2d. and a Fraction per Yard, as I suppose it is comprehended in the Article of new Drapery.

Will that Duty, according to your Information and Belief, operate so as to prevent Ireland from entering into a Competition with the Manufacturers in the British Market to any considerable Extent.

I think not; it will not operate as an Hindrance to the Irish.

Can the new Drapery of Ireland at present be brought into the British Market?

It cannot legally, without being subject to a severe prohibitory Duty.

Do you then believe that their Introduction, in Consequence of the Irish Propositions taking place, would be attended with a proportionable Diminution in the British Manufacture?

Certainly I do.

Have you had any Occasion to see any Goods of the Irish Manufacture; and can you give Information with respect to the relative Prices and Goodness when compared with those of this Country—the Question means particularly with respect to Shalloons.

I have it from the best possible Source of Information, that of a Manufacturer who lives close by me at Rumsley, that there was a Man applied to him for Work, who had worked in Ireland, who had a Shalloon in his Coat, bought in Ireland, better than was ever manufactured at Rumsley, which is the best Manufactory in this Country, and it was bought considerably lower.

Do you know whether there are not great Quantities of new Drapery imported into Ireland from this Country?

I am not informed of that.

If great Quantities of new Drapery are so imported into Ireland from this Country, subject to the Duty you before mentioned,
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do you think it probable that the Irish can manufacture so much cheaper as to be able to sell Stuffs of the like Sort sent into this Country?

As it was a Thing I was not informed of, I cannot answer that Question.

What do you mean that you was not informed of?

That a great Quantity of new Drapery was sent into Ireland;—that Part which is comprehended in the Stuff Trade.

Do you know that greater Quantities of new Drapery are exported from Ireland to Foreign Markets than are imported into Ireland from this Country?

I believe there are.

If greater Quantities are so exported, do you not think it probable that the Irish Woollen Trade, being in a State of such advanced Improvement, may further extend the Exportation?

I believe the Irish will catch at that, and at every Advantage.

How do you know that greater Quantities are exported from Ireland to Foreign Countries than are imported into Ireland from this Country?

Because I have learned, that when the Irish had a free Trade granted to them, their Exports were very large indeed.

Can you say what the Quantities are, either of the Export from Ireland, or Import into Ireland?

I cannot ascertain the exact Quantities.

Can you say nearly?

I have received my Information of the exact Quantities of their Exports or Imports from that Source only which is common to all, and can therefore specify no exact Quantity with Precision.

What is the Source you mean, from whence you received that Information?

I have read it in many Publications, but I cannot state the exact Quantities.

Is it possible to say that the Exports of new Drapery from Ireland are greater than the Imports, without having some Knowledge of the Quantity imported, as well as the Quantity exported?

As I wish to state nothing to this Committee, but what I really

really know myself, I can only give them Information in my own particular Branch of Manufacture.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

The Committee was informed that no other Person attended on the Behalf of this Petition.

The Committee being informed that Mr. Brooke, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Houghton, attended (according to Order) they were severally called in, and examined.

ROBERT BROOKE, Esq; informs the Committee, that he lives at Prosperous, in the County of Kildare, in the Kingdom of Ireland, and that he was the First Person who established the Cotton Manufacture in Ireland.

What is the Price of Labour in the Cotton Manufacture under your Conduct, compared with the Cotton Manufacture of this Country?

I agreed with my People, from the first, in every Branch, to work at the Manchester Prices—a Brother of mine manages the Detail, and gets over the Manchester Prices to be regulated by—but Combinations have often risen to increase those Prices, and my Property and Life have been in Danger—and after all, these Prices are only nominal, for I give Houses, Looms, Geer, &c. Rent-free, to induce the Weavers, &c. to remain quiet.

Do you pay your Workmen by the Week, or by the Work done?

By the Work done.

Cross Examined.

Do not you understand, that one principal Motive for establishing your Manufactory at Prosperous was to induce several Weavers to leave Dublin, and to work in the Country?

I believe it was one of the Motives why Government supported me.

Whether it was not necessary to give advanced Prices to the Dublin Weaver, to induce him to quit Dublin and remove to Prosperous?

It was found necessary, I believe, to give Bounties, but I never altered my System,

Whether

Whether you was not obliged to give to the Dublin Weaver more considerable Wages than he could earn in Dublin, in order to induce him to settle at Prosperous?

They get much less Wages at Prosperous than at Dublin—very considerably.

Whether the Difference of the Wages is not made up to the Workmen in other Circumstances?

I will explain how the Bounty arose—There were great Riots in Dublin for prohibitory Duties upon British Manufactures, and the Distresses in Dublin at that Period were very great—Government applied to me to give Employment to as many as I could.—Those People I carried down, had hardly Clothes or Necessaries of any Kind; there was public Support and private Donations given to remove them—But though I lost about £.3,000 myself in that Business, yet, as I said before, I made no Alteration whatever in the general System of my Prices.

What public Encouragements have you received for carrying on your Manufacture?

I cannot immediately state it exactly—The great Support I obtained was in Loans, One of £.25,000, and One of £.7,000 for which there is about £.70,000 Value now under Mortgage to Government—I pay £.5 per Cent. for the Loan I received.

Have you had no other Grants but those Two?

Yes—£.1,150 I think in Lord Carlisle's Administration.

Any other?

In Lord Northington's Administration—I do not recollect how much—These were Grants and not Loans.—There was another Grant in Lord Temple's Administration—I cannot tell exactly how much—I believe about £.3,000, for getting a Number of People (that were emigrating from Manchester to America with their Machinery—during the Course of the War) into my Employment, giving them Houses and settling them.—I do not immediately recollect any other Grant.

Have you received any Encouragement in the Way of Bounty on your Manufacture wrought into Goods?

I have.

What Bounties of that Kind have you received?

A Bounty of £.5 per Cent from the Linen Board, on the mixt Linen and Cotton Manufacture.

Has

Has that Manufacture increased—How long has your Manufacture been established ?

I begun about Five Years ago.

Has it increased ?

Yes, very much.

What Number of Men do you employ in your Manufacture ?

I am not certain—but think it was stated to the Irish House of Commons ; it gave Bread to about Five Thousand People, Men, Women, and Children.

Is your Manufacture now very flourishing ?

It is—so much so, that where only One *Hut* was only Five Years ago, there are now several hundred Houses—What is very extraordinary is, that in that Place there is to the Amount of some Thousands of Pounds worth per Annum purchased of British Goods, and British West India Commodities, by the People of that Place.

Whether you manufacture any Quantity of Fustians, and low-priced Cottons ?

Yes—that is principally and almost entirely what we deal in ; that is the principal Article in which we trade.

What Species of British and West India Goods are purchased by the People at Prosperous ?

Sugar is One great Article ; Tobacco—I mention these as the principal Things that occur to me—Birmingham Hard Ware, Gauzes, Ribbands, and several other Articles I cannot immediately recollect.

Do you mean any Species of British Goods for Cloathing ?

Yes ; fine Cloaths, fine Broad Cloth, and Silks.

Do you find now the Prices of Labour in the Manufacture of your Cottons increasing or decreasing ?

I kept up to One Standard and Principle—That of the Manchester Prices, which I promised to my People, whether high or low : My Brother manages that Detail.

Is it therefore necessary that you should know, from Time to Time, how the Prices vary at Manchester, or do you keep to the Prices you first set out with ?

We vary with the Manchester Prices as nearly as we possibly can.

Have you any Reason to believe that there is any regulated System of Prices for Labour at Manchester, in the Cotton Branch?

I cannot answer exactly to that; but as the Prices come over to us, so we regulate them.

Do not you know that the Manchester Prices are under no Regulation whatever, but liable to vary every Day, and every Hour, according to the Nature of the Fabric and other Circumstances?

I am ashamed to say that I am so little acquainted with the Detail—I was bred a Soldier—and have only gone on general Principles—My Brother manages the Detail.

What was your Inducement for establishing your Manufacture at Prosperous, if you was to pay the Manchester Prices, besides give the Workmen other Advantages?

In the First Place, I had no Inducement from an Idea of Profit; it was from other Motives at first; but finding there were £.10½ per Cent. Duties from England to Ireland (I think thereabouts) I thought it might in the End turn out advantageously, and I strove to get some Manchester People of Skill to join in it, but I have not been able yet to get Persons from thence to join in Partnership. I have got some Workmen and Artificers of every Kind.

State the Difference of the Price of Labour at Dublin and Prosperous.

I cannot. At Dublin it is considerably greater.

Can you state the ordinary Rate of the Wages you give at Prosperous?

I pay no Weekly Wages; I pay by the Piece, according to the Manchester Prices—by the Spinning and Weaving, and every Thing according to the Manchester Prices.

Can you state any Particulars of the Prices paid comparatively with the Prices paid at Dublin upon the same Articles?

I cannot.

How then are you able to ascertain, that the Prices are higher at one Place than at the other, if you are not able to state the Particulars of either?

Because my People combined against me to take away my Life for not giving them the Dublin Prices,

How long ago is that?

About Three Months ago,

Are

Are the Dublin Wages paid accompanied by the same Indulgences, of a different Kind, as are given by you at Prosperous?

I should conceive not.

What is the Difference of the Price of Provisions at Dublin and Prosperous?

I cannot say exactly—but not much—It is cheaper at Prosperous, but not much, for the Canal comes close to my Place.

Has the Exportation of your Manufacture increased lately, and in what Proportion?

It has increased very considerably.

Has not the Importation into Ireland of Manufactures of the same Kind decreased lately?

Of the coarser Fabricks, I have heard it said that the Importation has decreased—but of the Finer, increased; as printed Calicoes.

Has not the Importation of Fustians greatly decreased?

I believe what is mixt with Linen has decreased, and what with Cotton has increased—I speak only from what I hear in Ireland.

For what Purpose were the fine Broad Cloths and Silks which you mentioned purchased at Prosperous?

For the Cloaths of the Master Manufacturers and their Wives.

Whether the Manufacture of low-priced Fustians is not absolutely necessary to support and carry on the Manufacture of the Fustian Trade?

I should conceive not—For since Arkwright's Machine has been established, I hear they make the Warp principally of Cotton where they used to use Linen.

How many of Mr. Arkwright's Mills are established in Ireland?

I believe Three or Four are erected—but how many are at Work I cannot tell.

Whether a Manufacturer, by weaving the low-priced Goods, will not become, by Degrees, capable of being employed in the finer and high-priced Goods?

I conceive it to be the First Stage.

Do not you manufacture any high-priced Goods, such as Calicoes, &c.?

Very little; mostly middling, and the common Sorts.

Whether the Warp of the low-priced Fustians is not in Ireland mostly made of Linen?

I have gone upon that Principle myself of mixing the Linen principally with the Cotton Manufactory, supposing myself incapable to rival the Finer.

Whether you think your Manufacture would have succeeded if you had not gone upon that Principle?

It would not; nor even upon that Principle, if it had not received public Support.

Whether your Manufacture would have succeeded at all, if it had not been for the Loans, Donations, and the Bounties you have received from the Public?

I believe not.

Whether you think, that extraordinary Encouragement would be necessary, when the Manufactory becomes once regularly established, and those who have served Apprenticeships have become Journeymen?

I am sorry to give the Answer which I must do—The Manchester People that I have asked to come into Partnership with me have declined, saying, that the Irish Poor are so much given to Theft, Idleness, and Drinking, that they will not venture to engage with me.—I hope differently.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Called in again.

The Question repeated.

I beg not to give any other Answer to the Question.

Whether, in your Applications made to the Manchester Gentlemen, by you, or by your Brother on your Part, they were not assured that the Country was cheaper than England, and the Labour cheaper accordingly?

My Brother stated, I believe, that Provisions were cheaper; and he imagined, that with their Skill he could get the Labour cheaper in Proportion.

Are you under the same Necessity as the English Manufacturer, in giving any Thing to Mr. Arkwright, by Way of Premium, for the Use of his Machine?

No; but I purchased a great many of his Warps at Dublin, that were brought from Lancashire.

Are

Are you able to state the Duty on British Printed Calicoes imported into Ireland ?

I think about 1s. per Yard.

Does not that operate nearly as a Prohibitory Duty ?

I believe I stated before, that the finer Articles are now, more than formerly, imported into Ireland ;—the Coarser are less.

Can the Coarser come into the Irish Market under a Duty of 1s. per Yard ?

Not without there is something peculiarly new in their Pattern—in general they cannot.

Whether, in your Answers, you have not confined yourself to Cotton Goods ?

My Manufacture is principally in Linen and Cotton, and therefore my Answers have gone principally on that.

Is the Cotton Manufacture, or the Manufacture of Cotton mixed with Linen, carried on to any Extent in Dublin ?

Not very great, because the Master Manufacturers residing in Dublin have it round about, I believe.

Is there within Dublin any one considerable Cotton Manufacture ?

I do not know of any one carried on in Dublin that is very considerable.

Can you name any Manufacturer in Dublin, in the Cotton Branch, that employs any Number, or what Number of People ?

There is one Morgan and Grey that used to manufacture in Dublin ; they, I believe, now carry on their Business at some Distance.

If there is no Cotton Manufacture carried on in Dublin, what is the Committee to understand by the Dublin Prices, and how can they be required by the Workmen at Prosperous ?

There are some Cotton Manufactures carried on in Dublin, but to no considerable Extent ; and those that have got their Workmen out of Town, have not yet been able to break the Combinations, or alter their Prices ; so I am informed.

Is it then the Prices which have been required at the inconsiderable Manufactories at Dublin, which have been occasionally asked also at your considerable Manufactory at Prosperous ?

I think I said, that in Dublin the Manufactures were not very considerable ; but round the Town—they had removed their Manufactures

manufactures there, and had not yet been able to break the Combinations, and reduce the Prices.

Is the Committee to understand that there are any Cotton Manufactures carried on within Dublin?

There are.

Whether the Population of the Town of Prosperous has not considerably increased since the Establishment of the Manufacture?

Very greatly;—from Nothing, I may say, in Five Years to a very considerable Town.

Whether you have not been under the Necessity of using every Means of Persuasion and Activity, to induce the People to settle at Prosperous.

I have.

Whether you have not established a Police, imposing Regulations on the Inhabitants of Prosperous, that are not common in other Villages and Towns of Ireland?

I have.

Whether those Regulations, however just and proper, have not at different Times been resisted by the Inhabitants of Prosperous?

Yes.

Whether the Manufacturers of Dublin, in particular, have not taken every Means of preventing Manufacturers going to Prosperous and settling there?

Yes, they have.

Whether the high Price of Wages paid at Prosperous have not been necessary to counteract the various Difficulties and Opposition that you have met with in establishing the Manufacture?

I believe I pay the lowest Prices of any one.

Could you lower the present Prices?

I have stated that I have been in Danger for keeping them as they are, so that I do not think I could lower them.

Is not the Committee then to understand, that the Difficulties and Opposition, mentioned in the former Question, have been the Causes of the Price being kept up.

I believe partly.

Whether the Applications to the Irish Parliament from the various Manufacturers of Ireland, have not been in consequence of Money

Money actually expended and Manufactures established, and rather as a Premium and Reward for such public Services, than as a Foundation for establishing a new Manufacture ?

I believe in general that it was greatly as a Reward ; for the Manufacturers in Ireland wished for Prohibitory Duties—and they who were for establishing it on liberal Principles, did receive a Reward.

Whether in your Application to the Irish Parliament for the Loan of £.25,000, as you mentioned, it was not alledged that the Want of Capital was the only Obstacle to the Prosperity of the Manufacture ?

It alleges it to be a very great Obstruction—not the only one.

Whether the Want of Capital was not the only Ground assigned for the Loan of £.25,000 ?

The Want of Capital to fulfil the public Purposes was.

Explain what you mean by the public Purposes ?

I mentioned before, that at the Time of the great Riots in Dublin, and the great Distress of the People, it became a public Object for Government to remove as many People as possible from Dublin to the Country—and that is what I mean by public Purposes.

Whether, before it became a public Object to remove the Manufacturers from Duhlin, you had not formed the Design, and communicated your Intention, of applying to the Parliament for the Loan of £.25,000, on the Plea of Want of Capital ?

I cannot immediately recollect, but I do not doubt but I might—the Object was esteemed a great one from its Commencement.

Do you mean in the former Answer, that it became a public Object to remove the Manufacturers from Dublin, as different and distinct from its being an Object to establish a Cotton Manufactory in Ireland ?

It became then more particularly so.

Are you not positive that you had formed the Design of applying to Parliament for the before-mentioned Loan, previous to any Communication with any Person in the Confidence of Government, respecting the Removal and Establishment of the Three Thousand Manufacturers during Lord Northington's Administration ?

I cannot recollect.

Whether

Whether you did not purpose to give an ample Security for the Loan of £.25,000?

I did.

Whether at the Time of your making the Application to Parliament your Houses and Manufactures at Prosperous were not that Security?

I believe my Houses and Lands and Manufactures were a full Security.

Whether the House and Manufactures were not the Security offered?

I believe the Houses, Lands, and Manufactures were.

Whether in the Summer of 1783, there was not a great Struggle between the Cotton Manufacturers of Ireland and the Factors from Great Britain, in establishing a Sale for their respective Manufactures?

I believe there was, and is to this Day.

Was there not an Apprehension that the Factors of Great Britain would give as far as Eighteen Months Credit, in order to establish a Sale of their Manufactures?

I heard so.

Whether the Linen Board did not, in Consequence of this Apprehension, give a Bounty of Five per Cent. on the Sale of Irish Manufactures?

I stated before, that they gave Five per Cent. but I do not know what it was owing to.

Was it not about the same Time that the Apprehension was circulated, of the Eighteen Months Credit being given by the Manufacturers of Great Britain?

I do not doubt but it might, but I am not certain.

What is the Inducement of the Cotton Manufacturer to work with you at lower Wages than with other Manufacturers in that Trade?

Because I had a large Capital, and paid them regularly, and supplied them with Cows and other Articles, and took it out of their Wages afterwards.

How does it happen, that notwithstanding you pay the Manchester Prices for Labour, besides giving the Workmen many other considerable Advantages, you are enabled to undersell the Manchester Manufacturer, to encrease your Trade, and to make it flourish so greatly as you have stated?

I have stated before, that the coarser Articles flourished, and that

that the Finer still came over from England—However, there is still a Competition even in the coarser Articles; great Quantities are sending over now by Mr. Peele, purchased lately by Irish Agents, for the Irish Market.

Has not the Competition in the coarser Articles very much decreased on the Part of Great Britain?

I have said so.

Is your Manufacture prospering exceedingly?

I have said so.

Do you mean by that, that your Capital is very profitably employed?

I desire to be excused answering that Question.

Do you think that if the Duty of $\text{£.}10\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. was doubled, it would be of Advantage to the Manufacturers for the Home Sale in Ireland?

It is supposed so.

Would not a total Prohibition be so?

People in general in Ireland think so—I do not.

If such a Law was passed in Ireland, would it be an unpopular one?

Certainly not.

What Sort of Goods have been lately bought of Mr. Peele by the Irish Agents, for the Market of Ireland?

I believe in general Fustian Goods—but I cannot answer exactly.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Mr. NATHANIEL WILSON, Manufacturer of Linen and Cotton, at Belfast, in the Kingdom of Ireland.

How long have you been in the Cotton Manufactory?

Three Years.

Does any Part of your Manufactory consist of the Callicoe Branch?

There does.

Do you pay the Workmen in the Weaving and Spinning Branches by the Week, or by the Quantity of Work done?

Always by the Quantity of Work done, except when some particular Experiments are to be made.

Dd

Do

Do you then occasionally pay them by the Week ?

Very rarely—only on very particular Occasions.

Do you know the Prices paid in Manchester on weaving Callicoes, and what Proportion do they bear to the Prices paid in Ireland ?

For a common fine Callicoe of $42\frac{1}{2}$ Br. I pay rather more than $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ per Yard for Weaving—the Price in Manchester is $3d.$ —I mean Irish Money, my Price; and English Money, their Price.

Do you know the Price of Callicoes in Manchester, and at what Price can you manufacture the same Sort in Ireland ?

Yes; the same Kind I before spoke of, I could have bought at $16d.$ at Manchester, with a Drawback of $1d.$ which left $15d.$ English Money per Yard—the same Kind stands me $18\frac{1}{2}d.$ Irish Money.

Do you speak of the Price at Manchester of your own Knowledge ?

I do; I went about Manchester with a regular Buyer, and could have bought them at that Price in a regular Way of Trade for Money.

Do you furnish the Weavers with any Utensils, or make them any advances in Money not usual in England ?

I do; I mount all their Looms, and pay for furnishing them with Reeds, Headles, and every Utensil of that Kind—it is not so done in England—I have also to advance the Price of Weaving before the Work is done.

Are you of Opinion that the Irish Weavers do as much Work in the same Time as the English ?

I think they do not nearly the same Work in the same Time.

When you have paid the Weavers by the Week, at what Rate have you paid them ?

At the Rate of $9s.$ Irish.

Is there any considerable Importation of Cotton Goods into Belfast from England ?

There is a considerable Importation. We have three Wholesale Warehouses that deal almost entirely in British Goods.

From what Part of England are those Goods imported ?

A great deal by Way of Liverpool.

What

What is the general daily Wages of Mechanics, Carpenters, Masons, &c. in Ireland ?

Of a Carpenter or Mason, 2s. 2d. per Day, and 2d. Value of Drink.

Is that the general Wages of Ireland, or only near Belfast ?

I believe the general Wages—but I speak only of the Neighbourhood of Belfast.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Mr. BENJAMIN HOUGHTON, Weaver, Dyer, and Finisher of New Drapery, in Dublin ; he has also been concerned in the Silk Manufacture for Sixteen or Seventeen Years.

Whether the Prices of Labour in Ireland, in the Silk Manufacture, are lower or higher than they are in England ?

They are exactly the same ; which I can say with Precision, as I have compared the English and Irish Prices together.

Do you make the Difference between English and Irish Money in that Comparison ?

The Prices paid in Ireland are in Irish Money, and the Prices in England in English Money.

Do the Irish Journeymen Weavers find the Reed and the Harness ?

They do not, I never knew it in my Experience ; and I have asked of other Manufacturers, who never knew it to be done.

Is there any Difference in the Price of Throwing the Silk in England and in Ireland ?

I cannot state the comparative Difference, but there must be a Difference, as they have not Machines for Throwing Silk in Ireland.

Are the Prices of Working the Silk the same in England and Ireland ?

The same ; only I must observe—that the one is Irish Money and the other English.

Is the Silk Manufacture in Ireland in a flourishing State ?

It is not ; very much to the contrary—It has declined for several Years—I believe, that in 1783, in Dublin, the Seat of the Manufactory, the Silk Looms were almost idle—several Aids were given to assist the Manufactory, and a Silk Warehouse established

for Sale of the Irish Silk, and a Bounty given of £. 8½ per Cent. to accelerate the Home Consumption—nevertheless it has declined under that and similar Encouragement.

Do you know of any Working Silk Manufacturers having lately emigrated from Ireland?

I do believe there has been a great many; and that within these Six Months.

Do you speak that from your own Knowledge?

Many of them lived in my own Neighbourhood; and Fifteen of them went on Board One Vessel for America.

To what do you attribute the Decline of the Silk Manufacture?

I think it may be attributed to a Variety of Causes. The Predilection of the People for Foreign Silk—The Ladies of my Country are very fond of British Silks.—I believe the Manufacturers have not the Materials on the same Terms that the Silk Manufacturer in England has.—They have greater Capitals in England to carry on their Trade; they can give a greater Extent or Credit, which is a great Inducement to the Purchaser to buy it of them.—I believe, added to this, that Fashions have changed very much.—Other Manufactures have been adopted in the Place of Silk——Cambricks, Lawns, Stained Linens, and East India Goods, and I believe that has lessened the Consumption even in England; and I am informed, and believe also, in France.—I add those Causes to the Cause of the Decline in Ireland.—I was at a Meeting of Silk Manufacturers, a very large Meeting, and they were of Opinion they would not be able to export Silk, if they had a Bounty of £. 15 per Cent.

Whether you do not know that the Duties on the Importation of Raw Silk into Ireland are much less than on the Importation into England?

I believe they are; but I apprehend the Commissinn and Charges, and the Profits, if not sent on Commission, counterbalance the Profits arising from the Difference of Duties,

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.

Veneris,

Veneris, 6^o die Maii 1785.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Committee being informed, That several Persons attended, according to Order; they were severally called in, and examined.

Mr. DAVID CLARKE, of Stockport, in Cheshire.

Of what Business are you?

I am in no Employment at present.

Did you carry on any Manufactory formerly at Stockport?

Yes—a Check Manufactory formerly, and a Cotton Manufactory latterly.

Have you been in Ireland?

Yes.

When did you go there?

In the Year 1780, and was there about Four Years and a Half.

Had you the Management of a Cotton Manufactory in Ireland?

Yes; the sole Management of erecting a Cotton Manufactory from the First, or from a small Beginning of about Three Months.

In what Part of Ireland, and in whose Employment, was you there?

At Malahide, about Eight Miles from Dublin, under Colonel Talbot.

Are you of Opinion that Cotton can be manufactured as cheap in Ireland as in England?

It neither is, nor ever will be.

State

State your Reasons for thinking so.

There is a Want of Coals, which is as essential a Matter as any Thing I know in the Cotton Manufacture; the greatest Part of which they have from England—Wherever I was, they had their Coals from England—with regard to their Religion, that is also material, for on that Account they work only Eleven Months in the Year.

Can you state the Comparative Value of weaving a Piece of Callicoe in Ireland and in England?

I do not think that there was ever a Piece of perfect Callicoe made in Ireland—those that were made under my Inspection cost weaving about 9s. for a Piece of Twenty-eight Yards, but in Dublin such a Piece would cost in weaving about 14s.

What would the same Sort of Callicoe cost weaving in England?

About 7s. 6d. is the Average Price in England for weaving such a Callicoe—the Spinning in England is Thirteen Pence, and in Ireland the same, in the Money of the respective Countries—The Weaving and Spinning together is per Piece 3s. cheaper in England than it is in Ireland, if made in the Country—but if made in Dublin would make 4s. more.

What is the Value of a Piece of Twenty-eight Yards?

About 14d. per Yard.

How long did you carry on the Cotton Manufacture at Stockport on your own Account?

About Two or Three Years by myself, and with others concerned with me.

Was you induced to go to Ireland on a Belief that you could carry on your Business with greater Advantage there; or what was your Reason for going?

I went there after the free Trade, with a View to get more Money than I could in England.

Did you erect Mr. Arkwright's Machines in Ireland?

I first erected all the Hand Spinning Machines, such as Carding Machines, Spinning Jennies, and after that I erected Mr. Arkwright's Machinery—they are now at work, and there were more Spindles at work at the Manufactory at Malahide than any other Cotton Mill had at work in Ireland, but more are erecting in other Parts of the Kingdom—Two more near Dublin, and One in the North.

Was

Was the Business you carried on in Ireland as profitable as the Trade you carried on at Stockport?

I never carried on any Trade in Ireland on my own Account, except making of Machinery worth about £500.

Did you leave a profitable Trade in England, to go to Ireland to carry on no Trade?

I went to make Machinery, as I thought there were few in Ireland who understood that Branch; and as such I began it and carried it on about Twelve Months.

Did any of your Partners go to Ireland with you?
Not any.

Was the Partnership dissolved?

All Partnerships and Connections I had in England were dissolved and settled, so far as I was able.

Had you ever any Bounty given you by the Linen Board in Ireland for your Ingenuity?

I had £60 given me by the Dublin Society for my Hand Machinery, which was allowed to be the best that was erected at that Time in the Kingdom.

Have you any Connection now in Ireland, or any Thoughts of returning there?

I have not, and I never intend returning there again, unless I am forced.—I return God Thanks that I am here safe.

What Danger did you incur in Ireland that you return Thanks for being here safe?

I took my Idea from what I saw other Englishmen suffer, who went over at the same Time, and some came after, and some went before, and many died;—because they could not come back, they died of Grief.

Did you never know of any Cotton Wool being sent over from England to Ireland to be spun there, and afterwards sent back, and sold at Manchester?

I never knew any so sent and returned; but I was told in Ireland by Mr. Taylor, who went from Ashton near Manchester, that he and his Partner had Yarn in the Cob not reeled, from Stockport, cheaper than he could make it himself in Ireland.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Mr.

Mr. JOHN STEAD, in the Cotton Business, at Stockport, in Cheshire.

Have you ever carried on the Cotton Business any where but at Stockport ?

Yes.

Where ?

In Ireland ; first at Dublin, and then at Capt. Brooke's at Prosperous.

How long was you in Ireland ?

Two Years within a Month.

To your Knowledge is Cotton manufactured cheaper or dearer in Ireland than in England ?

When I was there (it was Two Years, or Two Years and a Half since I came away) the Expence of manufacturing Cotton was greater there than it is here.

State the relative Prices of the Manufacture in the Two Countries ?

In my Business I can.—In preparing, carding, roving, and spinning, the Prices I had in Ireland were 14*d.* for Sixteen Hanks, and 16*d.* for Eighteen Hanks, and so on, and I had all Sorts of Machinery found. In England I could do it for less Money, and find my own Machinery.

When you was in Ireland, were Mr. Arkwright's Mills introduced ?

In some small Manner, but not in Perfection.

You do not then speak of spinning by Mr. Arkwright's Machine, but by the Machines used there before ?

Not by his Machine, but by those used before.

When you speak of the Price of Spinning in England, do you speak of Mr. Arkwright's Machine.

Not at all.

What Business do you carry on now, and where ?

I carry on the same Sort of Business on my own Account in Stockport.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

Mr.

Mr. JOSEPH BUTLER, employed in the valuing Estates, selling Timber and Bark; lives at York, but is a great deal of his Time in the Southern Part of *England*.

Do you know the comparative Price of Bark in England and in Ireland.

When Bark is £.4 per Ton in England we expect £.6 per Ton in Ireland.—I have sent a great deal of Bark there, and received that Price for it;—when I could not get £.4 in England, I got £.6 in Ireland.

From what Port in England do you send it, and to what Port in Ireland?

I have sent a great deal from Swansea to Corke.

What is the Freight from Swansea to Corke per Ton?
21s. and sometimes 27s.

Are there any other Charges on it?

Insurance and Commission, and some few Port Charges.

What is the Amount of the Whole?

From 30s. to 40s. just as we can agree with the Owners of the Vessels.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

The Committee being informed, That certain Journeymen Silk Weavers, of the City of London, were desirous of being called to the Bar, in order to explain some Matters to the Committee respecting the Prices paid in the Silk Manufacture in *Ireland*; they were severally called in, and examined.

MARK ASH, a Journeyman Silk Weaver in Church Street, Mile End New Town, London.

Do you know of any Difference in the Prices paid to Journeymen Silk Weavers in Ireland, and in England?

There is no Difference in the Price of Wages paid to the Journeymen here and there;—I was in Ireland Twelve Years, and worked at my Trade all the Time I was there.

Is the Harness found the Journeymen Silk Weavers in England by themselves or by the Master ?

By the Master.

Is that the Case also in Ireland ?

It is.

Do you know of any Disposition amongst the Journeymen Weavers in England to emigrate to Ireland ?

I never heard of it.

When you say, that the Wages are the same, do you mean that they are the same in the different Currency of the Two Countries ?

Yes, in the Money of each Country.

Whether a Journeyman Silk Weaver can get more Provision for the same Sum of Money in Dublin or in London.

I have known it cheaper and dearer in Dublin than it is in London at particular Times—When I came away, in Dublin Bread was only Six Pound for One Shilling, which was about Two Years ago.

That was a Year of Scarcity ?

It was so.

Answer in general.

In general Provisions are cheaper in Dublin than in London.

Whether, under all Circumstances, the Situation of an Irish Silk Weaver in Dublin or in London is the most comfortable to him ?

In London—I have found it so.

Of what Country are you ?

An Englishman.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

JOHN BOULGER, lives in Shoreditch, London ; he is a Journeyman Silk Weaver, an Irishman, and has been in England about Three Months.

Did you ever work as a Journeyman Silk Weaver in Ireland ?
Yes, many Years.

Is

Is there any Difference in the Price paid to the Irish Silk Weaver in Ireland and England for the same Work?

There is;—the Price is more in Ireland for many Works than it is in England:—There is more paid per Yard for some Works in the rich Way in Ireland than in England.

Do you know any Articles for which less is paid in Ireland than in England?

There are some Articles in the Silk Manufacture, very few of which are made, in which less is paid in Ireland than in England.

Are Reeds and Harnes found by the Journeyman Silk Weaver in Ireland?

No, by the Master always; and every other Expence preparatory to the putting the Work into the Loom is paid by the Master also.

What is your age?

I am in the Fifty-first Year of my Age.

Where did you first learn the Business of Weaving?

In Dublin; I served Seven Years Apprenticeship to it there.

What were the Inducements or Expectations which led you to England?

Because I could get no Bread in Ireland, as no Business was carrying on there latterly.

Have you found full Employ in England?

I have.

Did you ever follow any other Profession besides that of a Silk Manufacturer?

Yes.

Was you ever in England before you came here this Time?

I was; but never as a Working Man.

What were your Inducements to come here to this Committee To-day?

My Inducements were, that I was required by the Committee of the Working People to come, as I lately came from Ireland, and could tell what the Customs were there; as it had been reported that it was said by some of the Master Silk Weavers, or by some of the Journeymen Silk Weavers who have been examined here, that the Masters in Ireland found no Tackling, but that the Working Silk Weavers found all

their Tackling themselves; and that was what I knew was not so, for the Tackling is found in Ireland by the Master Silk Weaver as well as it is here?

Where is that Meeting of Journeymen Silk Weavers held, who desired you to come here?

I do not know.

How long had you been out of Employment in Ireland before you came here?

Twenty-five Months.

What Business did you follow to earn your Bread during that Time?

I lived mostly on the Industry of my Wife and Children.

Did you seek for Employ in the Weaving Branch during that Time?

Weekly—constantly.

Had the Prices of Weaving fallen in that Time?

The Prices were as well paid as ever for any Thing that was going on—they were as high.

In which Country, England or Ireland, can a Journeyman Silk Weaver, provided he is in full Employ, live the cheapest?

I must say I have lived here cheaper than I could in Dublin on the same earnings.—The Reason is, if I had a Shilling, I could turn it to various Purposes in London, better than I could 14d. in Dublin;—I can buy Half a Pound of Meat here, or in small Quantities, which I cannot do in Ireland;—my Rent and Lodging is full as cheap here, and more comfortable.

Is Meat by the Pound of the same Price in Dublin and London?

In the last Spring, in Dublin, Beef was $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ or $5d.$ per Pound—I can buy Beef for $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ in London which is very good for a Working Man.

Is Meat as cheap in Dublin as it is in London?

In the slaughtering Time, and in great Quantities, it is vastly cheaper in Dublin and Corke, and other Parts of the Kingdom.

What is the Price in other Seasons?

Full as dear as it is in London; and Mutton is as dear.

For what can you buy the coarser Parts of the Bullock per Pound here in London?

I gave $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ last Week for a very coarse Part.

Could

Could you buy that coarse Part in Dublin separate from the finer Parts?

Yes.

At what Price?

In slaughtering Time somewhat cheaper; but in the Spring at 3d. per lb.

Have you brought your Wife and Family with you to England?
No; but I mean to send for them.

Can you buy smaller Quantities of Meat in London than in Dublin?

Yes, I can; if I have not Money to buy a whole Joint in Dublin, I must buy a very coarse inferior Bit.

And then he was directed to withdraw.

To report a Progress, &c.